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FIVE DAYS TO GO:
TRUDEAU HAS WIND AT HIS BACK
Chantal Hébert metroVIEWS

Toronto metro

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Electricity in the air

PHOTOS: LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

BASEBALL

Jays faithful come together to celebrate series clincher

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Jays fans streamed out of Rogers Centre — hands in the air, intoxicated with joy.

"I love everyone! I love everyone," shouted Greg Applebee, repeatedly, as he ran out outside, jumping up and down.

The electricity that filled the air after Wednesday's victory over the Texas Rangers was about much more than baseball, he said.

"This is a camaraderie, when people come together to celebrate for a team, for a city, it's like none other."

Fans sang "Jose, Jose," to honour José Bautista as they paraded out of the dome, gathering outside, finding no reason to go home just yet.

Others — left stunned and happy — just swore repeatedly, trying to make sense of what had just happened.

Brian Glen jumped and mugged for cameras waiting outside.

"I've been waiting for this since I was a young man," he shouted. "I was about eight years old in '93, now I'm 33, and thank goodness!"

Margaret Lineham said the game was the best she'd ever seen.

"Exciting!" she said. "All the fighting!"

But it wasn't joyous for everyone.

A woman who'd been escorted out in the seventh inning was outraged at Rogers Centre security and the Jays fans who called for her removal.

"I threw an empty bottle," the woman said, stressing the "empty."

But everyone in their section had thrown them, she and her male companion complained.

It's true.

The game saw cans and garbage rain down on the field, the bullpen and fans in the expensive 100-level seats when the umps awarded a tie-breaking run to the Rangers on a fluke error in the seventh inning.

The drama made the win that much more wonderful for some.

"Unbelievable," said Jon Antonick.

"Bautista was telling everyone to slow down and don't throw drinks on the field, and all of a sudden he hits a big home run. Absolutely unbelievable," Antonick said.

He punctuated the sentence with, what else, "Jose, Jose!"

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Game faces

Wednesday's finale was filled with enough tension and joy to leave any fan's head spinning. You could see it in their eyes — and hear it in their screams — from practically the first pitch.

LIZ BEDDALL and STEVEN GOETZ METRO

Please, take me to jail

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

There's a logic to it: You can watch the Jays game for free in jail, and cable is really expensive.

Officers were called to St. Jamestown on Wednesday morning over a report of a man "asking to go to jail so he can watch the game," the Toronto Police Service tweeted.

However, police couldn't locate him, said spokeswoman Const. Jenifferjit Sidhu.

He's lucky, because there's a flaw in his plan: There are no televisions in Toronto holding cells, Sidhu said.

"There's no TV in the cars, no TV at the police station, and then they go to court and there's no TV in court either," she said.

However, the man could have eventually ended up in one of Toronto's detention centres, which, according to the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, do show Jays games.

"Large sports events are typically things inmates want to see," said corrections spokesman Brent Ross, adding that keeping inmates happy is a good thing.

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  - — Over 70% of Canadians believe they will have to work past the traditional retirement age.
- Sometimes it isn't what you know, it's who you know – and when you know this Multi-Millionaire you'll also have access to his network of people and funds that can help you succeed in real estate.
- You care about your family, and you want the best for them. This event will open your eyes to all you can really do for the people you love when you are finally the master of your financial success.
- His strategies are for everyone, even if you have absolutely no experience in buying or selling properties.

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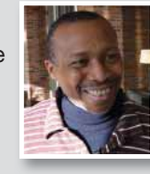

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City eyeing UPX for SmartTrack: Report

TRANSIT

Metrolinx says ridership can still grow

Toronto Mayor John Tory's SmartTrack train network has the potential to absorb the fledgling Union Pearson Express (UPX), according to a draft city staff report viewed by Torstar News Service.

"While there is a need to consider the ridership ramp-up period and viability of a new transit operation over a period of time, there is a possibility that the business model for this (UPX) service may need to be modified at a future date," says a draft version of a staff report on SmartTrack.

"There may also be a future opportunity to address some of the objectives that a SmartTrack service between Union Station and Pearson airport might afford. City staff are monitoring this situation and are prepared to work closely with Metrolinx in the event that options arise to adjust the current UPX business model," the draft version said.

Metrolinx CEO Bruce McCuaig said there have been no discussions between the provincial agency and the city about using UPX as a commuter service. Suggestions that ridership won't materialize for the dedicated air-rail train are premature, given that UPX has only been in service since June 6, he said.

When Metrolinx officials saw the city's draft SmartTrack report they requested changes. McCuaig said he still had not seen the revised version at noon Wednesday. The report was expected to be released publicly Wednesday afternoon, but was delayed.

Tory, speaking to reporters, indicated he'd be open to discussing UPX as part of his SmartTrack plans, saying it's up to the province. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Critics say the UPX should be converted to public transit rather than providing a premium service for business travellers. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

POLITICS

Car insurance pledge a ploy: Opposition

Ontario's opposition parties say the Liberal government failed to keep its promise to cut auto insurance rates by 15 per cent and call a mandated discount for winter tires "a gimmick."

The Liberals promised to reduce car insurance premiums an average of 15 per cent by last August as part of a deal to get NDP support for the 2013 budget when they were still a minority government.

Finance Minister Charles Sousa said some companies have cut premiums 10 to 15 per cent while others haven't cut them "near enough," but he's confident they will be down further when new figures are released Thursday.

"What we want to do is ensure that we have a sustainable approach that enables those insurance companies to reduce rates by reducing the costs of those claims," he said.

The New Democrats said the Liberals broke their pledge to cut rates 15 per cent in two years in a "colossal" way.

"They've consistently put the interests of insurance companies ahead of the interests of Ontario drivers, who are paying the highest auto insurance premiums in the entire country," said NDP auto insurance critic Jagmeet Singh.

The Liberals never had a real commitment to cut rates 15 per cent, and only made a promise to "buy off the NDP" in 2013, said Progressive Conservative finance critic Vic Fedeli.

"It was a hollow plan," said Fedeli. "It was only words and never backed up with any action."

Premiums actually increased slightly during the last quarter, but Sousa said new legislation will lower costs further for insurance companies, which he insisted will lead to reduced rates for drivers.

"We are going to continue to be vigilant in order for those rates to go down on an ongoing basis," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

$1 billion

The NDP said insurance companies saved over $1 billion after regulation changes introduced by the Liberals in 2010, but didn't pass along the savings to drivers.

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Public pays thousands for Oliver's flights

EXPENSES

Finance Minister spent over $5K on two occasions

Federal Finance Minister Joe Oliver charged taxpayers hundreds of dollars to upgrade his seat on flights and spent more than $5,000 twice on in-country flights during his time as a cabinet minister.

In July 2012, Oliver spent $5,593 on two one-way flights between Toronto and Calgary so he could hold roundtable meetings with oil, gas, steel and pipeline companies.

The flights were the biggest cost for the trip, which came to $7,483. A few months earlier, in April 2012, a trip to Calgary came with an airfare bill of $6,710.55.

Oliver charged $529 in March 2014 for an upgrade on flights that went between Ottawa, Houston and Toronto. He also charged about $500 for a business-class upgrade on a flight from Edmonton to Vancouver in March 2012.

The figures are contained in publicly available expense disclosures Oliver filed while he was the minister of natural resources. Details of the spending are outlined in receipts obtained by The Canadian Press.

Joe Oliver THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oliver's ministerial spokesman said Oliver followed all the rules when he travelled nationally and internationally on government business, including picking hotels that were close to where he had events.

"Joe Oliver has travelled extensively in his capacity as a cabinet minister and always complies with government guidelines. He flies business class according to guidelines and because it permits him to work on the flight," Nick Bergamini said.

Bergamini said Oliver sometimes had no other choice but to book flexible airfares that tend to be more expensive.

"Because his schedule frequently changes at the last minute, it is more economical to book flexible flights."

Federal travel rules allow ministers to charge for business class or higher when they are on a flight that is more than two hours long.

Many upgrade their seats through travel points collected as they travel the country on government business, which doesn't add extra costs to the public purse.

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Anne Michaels TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LITERATURE

Michaels becomes T.O's poet laureate

Toronto's new poet laureate hopes to amplify the city's "huge international library" of multilingual poetry and literature.

Anne Michaels, author of five acclaimed poetry collections and novel "Fugitive Pieces," was named Wednesday as George Elliott Clarke's successor in the three-year honourary post.

Michaels wants to focus on Toronto's many tongues.

"How do we make a space for all these literatures that have come to us in such tremendous largesse, such tremendous richness?" she said in an interview at city hall. "We need Torontonians to bring their cultures, bring their poets to us, so we have access to that huge international library."

> **We need Torontonians to bring their cultures, bring their poets to us.**
> Anne Michaels

She also hopes to highlight the writings of Toronto students.

Michaels' collections include "The Weight of Oranges," "Miner's Pond," "Skin Divers" and "Poems."

Her most recent collection, "Correspondences," was shortlisted for last year's Griffin Poetry Prize.

Michaels officially becomes Toronto's fifth poet laureate on Dec. 1. The position, which carries a $10,000 annual honorarium, was created in 2001. The first poet to hold the post was Dennis Lee of "Alligator Pie" fame.

Elliott Clarke, a renowned poet and playwright, said it has been "wonderful to represent the city in so many different ways."

The University of Toronto professor, who focuses on African-Canadian works, rhymed off his many initiatives. They include: helping Jane-Finch students celebrate their graduates every June; helping to launch the Pan Am Games; representing Toronto at a New York City competition for creative thinking and culture; contributing to library events commemorating the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Malcolm X, and Black History Month.

He wrote a CBC-broadcast poem about a peacock that escaped High Park Zoo, and another on the principles of good governance, inspired by civic "turbulence" during Rob Ford's mayoral term. "It's been a wonderful position from which to be able to inject poetry into what might be thought of as relatively mundane political activities," Clarke said.

However, he said he hopes Michaels does not experience the resistance he felt from some officials who "red-taped to death" some attempts to get more poetry into Toronto's public spaces.

"I frankly felt that some of my time was wasted in pushing some projects," added Clarke.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lorraine Johnson poses in front of the building in Mirvish Village where she rents a writing studio. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

'Robust' plan for Mirvish Village

BATHURST-MARKHAM

City considers adding 35 properties to heritage list

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

If a report from the city's heritage board gets the nod from council, the developers looking to transform Mirvish Village may have to return to the drawing board.

The Toronto East York Community Council recently approved a plan to add 35 properties along Bathurst and Markham streets to the city's heritage list.

Coun. Mike Layton said the properties are in addition to those already listed, meaning the vast majority of Mirvish Village — save for the Honest Ed's site itself — would receive heritage consideration.

That's bad news for Westbank, the Vancouver developer who's applying to turn Mirvish Village into a mixed-use residential site, featuring 1,000 rental units and a 29-storey tower.

"The new plan includes properties that haven't been included in the developer's retention plan," Layton said. "It doesn't mean all of those buildings will be protected in their entirety, but (Westbank) will need to address those heritage concerns in the next iteration of their proposal."

Westbank's initial plan does maintain some of the heritage properties along Markham Street, but Layton said the heritage board's proposal is more "robust."

"When you walk down the street you certainly get that there's a character to it ... it's not just one or two buildings at the end of the street," he said.

"You get the same feeling when you walk down Bathurst. That's what we have to try to recapture when we look at the proposal that gets put in front of council."

Metro contacted Westbank, but the developer did not respond by press time.

> **We haven't been terribly good at protecting our heritage. We recognize that it's a problem and we need to do something about it.**
> Coun. Mike Layton

TEACHERS' UNION

Board association slammed for negotiating in public

The union representing elementary school teachers has slammed the board association for bargaining in public after the board association said talks have stalled on two issues.

The Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario calls the move by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association to publicly discuss talks being stalled on sick leave and benefits a media stunt.

The OPSBA says talks with the union representing elementary school teachers have otherwise progressed on a majority of issues.

ETFO president Sam Hammond says the board association has been dismissive and disrespectful and the union will have to re-evaluate how it proceeds with negotiations.

The OPSBA says 30 days of talks with the provincial government and teachers have resolved outstanding matters such as class size, salary increases and preparation time.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SICK DAYS

The board association says they have proposed adjustments to maintain the number of sick days provided annually, an offer it says is similar to the ones accepted by other teacher unions, and a similar benefit package it gave other unions.

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Students lost in transit

TRANSPORTATION

GTA services failing large segment of riders: Experts

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

There's nearly half a million post-secondary students living in the Greater Toronto Area, but the region's transit system is failing them, experts say.

"It's set up primarily for nine-to-five work, but students don't use the city in that way," said Matti Siemiatycki, an urban planning professor at the University of Toronto. "They have courses at all hours of the day, they're working on campus until late and they have work and social lives that take them all over the city."

Siemiatycki is part of StudentMoveTO, an academic study examining how students commute into, out of and through Toronto. The project is a joint initiative between U of T, Ryerson and York universities and OCAD.

The group launched a survey last month designed to assess student travel patterns. Included in the survey is a map asking students to plot their different commutes. Once the survey is finished, Semiatycki said the data will help planners, academics and transit advocates create a transportation system that better responds to student needs.

The early findings have been eye-opening.

"I think a lot of us have this picture in our heads of a student who lives in the Annex and walks to campus," he said. "But we have many students commuting across one or two municipal boundaries, paying multiple fares."

That shows the need for better integration among transit providers, Siemiatycki said.

Other concerns raised by students include a lack of bike lanes and services — like parking and shower facilities — for cyclists, as well as the need for a transit system that can accommodate the sheer volume of material they need to cart around.

"When they come to campus, they're bringing their whole lives," Siemiatycki said. "They have their bags, clothes, and they're packing two or three meals with them because eating out isn't financially sustainable for a student budget.

"Our universities rely on students having a great experience here, and if transportation is a problem, that's an issue for us as a city."

Riders board an express bus to York University at Downsview Station. Researchers at Toronto's major universities are examining ways the city's transit system can better serve the student population. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

> **The transportation system is not set up for students.**
> Matti Siemiatycki

GEORGE BROWN

College receives $8M gift

George Brown College has received the largest one-time donation in the Ontario college system's history, the George Brown College Foundation announced Tuesday.

The $8-million donation came via Toronto businessman and philanthropist Jack Cockwell and the Brookfield Partners Foundation, the charitable branch of the Brookfield Management Company, where Cockwell is a director.

"Having seen firsthand how George Brown's remarkable facilities, faculty and administration help to prepare the next generation of professional leaders and community builders, I am honoured to be playing a role in the future growth that will support George Brown's continued innovation and leadership," Cockwell said in a news release.

The money will support George Brown's Success at Work fundraising campaign, which aims to raise $60 million to support a $250-million expansion plan. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Film highlights aboriginal lives

FIRE SONG

'Personal' movie had Toronto debut

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

A new film is shedding light on the struggles of aboriginal youth trying to make the best out of life.

Fire Song is a 90-minute drama featuring a young man who dreams of leaving the reserve to attend university in the city. His dreams are shattered when his younger sister commits suicide and he's left to take care of her mother.

"It's a pretty personal film in a lot of ways," said Toronto filmmaker Adam Garnet Jones, who started writing the film seven years ago.

Though he never lived on the reserve himself, he struggled early on when he realized he was gay.

There's an incredible feeling of isolation and fear for the future when you're growing up gay and not really sure if the world is going to accept you," he said. "Being suicidal is sadly incredibly common amongst aboriginal youth, and not all of us make it out alive."

Jones has been producing short films on aboriginal issues for many years now, but Fire Song is his first feature movie.

It premiered during TIFF, but this weekend's showing at the ImagineNative festive will be the first time its screened in front of an audience that's largely aboriginal.

"That's really exciting for me. It feels like finally bringing the film home," he said.

The movie captures an aboriginal love for songs and a youthful sense of energy and passion, all while tackling serious problems, like suicide, among aboriginal communities, he said.

"I hope that Fire Song can get people talking," he said. "Not just about specific incidents that happen, but all the systemic stuff that's evident in the film and in the communities."

A still from the movie Fire Song with Andrew Martin, who plays Shane, and Mary Galloway, who plays Tara. CONTRIBUTED

FILM AND ARTS FESTIVAL

- ImagineNative is a film and media arts festival featuring indigenous artists.
- This year's festival runs at various locations in Toronto from Wednesday to Sunday. Fire Song will screen Sunday at TIFF Bell Lightbox, as part of the closing night gala.
- Highlights include a short documentary live-pitch competition; a digital media playground featuring indigenous gaming and a virtual-reality demonstration; and movies like The Price of Peace, about peaceful activists being arrested and charged with terrorism, and The Last Saint, a gritty tale about gang wars and drug addiction.

NEW Humans of Toronto by K. Omar

"A lesson I've learned fairly recently is to surround yourself with people that make you feel great about yourself and who you can be yourself around. I think I read it in a book, but it was something about noticing who you hang around and how you feel when you are around them. You'll know who you're supposed to be with when you feel amazing ... Always be yourself, and you'll be really happy."

Humans of Toronto is K. Omar's social photography project aimed at photographing and talking to people in the city. It showcases the triumphs and tribulations that allow people to be connected by what we call humanity. Selections from Omar's work will be featured weekly in Metro. You can see more of her work at Humans_of_Toronto on Instagram.

PHOTO BY LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

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Coming soon: Fall colour

AUTUMN

Foliage has stayed green longer due to warm weather

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Toronto has plenty of good spots to view autumn's beauty. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Don't worry, Toronto. The fall colours are coming.

Thanks to an abundance of warm — and dry — weather, the city's foliage has remained greener for longer this year, says municipal horticulturist Garth Armour. However, residents can expect to see more of the traditional red and orange hues by this weekend.

"You need a certain temperature fluctuation to have the colours be at their peak," Armour said.

"Usually, it happens around Thanksgiving, but hopefully we'll get peak colour in the next two weeks."

The changing colours are the result of trees going dormant for the winter. Once the days get shorter, plants stop producing food and the green chlorophyll pigment in their leaves diminishes.

The most vibrant fall colours are found in maple trees, Armour said, where a build-up of sugar in the leaves produces bright oranges, reds and purples.

"It's a beautiful time in the city," he said.

"We have a lot of foliage compared to other cities and there are lots of nice river valley trails to bike and walk and see the fall colours."

> **It's a beautiful time in the city.**
> Garth Armour, municipal horticulturist

LEAF PEEPING

1. Some of the best fall colours in the city can be seen throughout the lower Don Valley, but the consensus is that Crothers Woods, a 52-hectare park near Leaside, tops the list. The woods feature some of Toronto's oldest trees.

2. On the other end of the city, Armour recommends walking or biking the Humber River trail. The best viewing spots can be found near Old Mill Station, he said.

3. The vast wilderness of Scarborough's Rouge Park is sure to delight fall foliage seekers.

4. If you're thinking about doing some strolling in High Park, think again, Armour said. The park has a high population of oak trees, which tend to turn a ruddy brown in the fall.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

MISSISSAUGA

Mosque spurs dissent

Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie refused to apologize Wednesday to a group of residents who allege she had labelled them racists for refusing to support a new mosque.

Crombie said she singled out only one resident at a council meeting two weeks ago for his views.

Kevin Johnston admitted distributing literature urging the mosque be scrapped. He claimed if the mosque is built current residents would leave in droves, creating "another Canadian cultural hole."

He argued the mosque did not fit with the neighbourhood, would drive up crime and vandalism, and impact housing prices.

"It was uncalled for, it was un-Canadian, it was heinous and it was wrong," Crombie said.

In a statement at council on Wednesday Johnston said being labelled a hatemonger meant that "I will have to probably work outside of Mississauga, but I won't be leaving."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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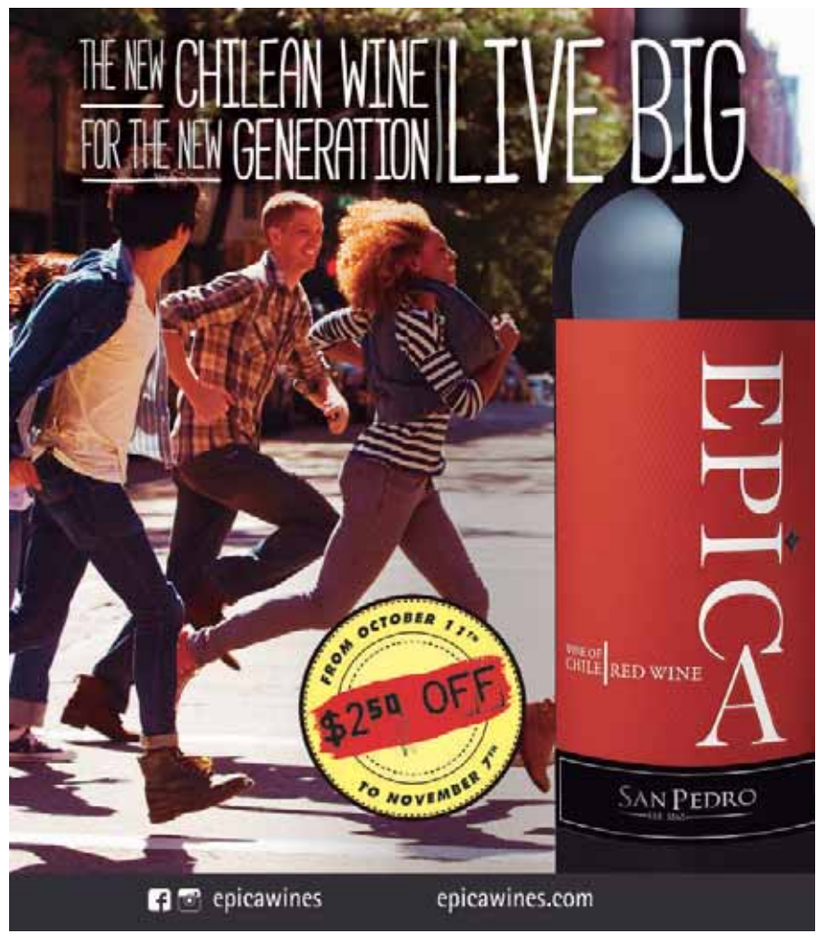

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Program makes job hunt less of a battle for veterans

CIVILIAN LIFE

Organization helps soldiers transition into working world

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

Five years ago, the Canadian Forces sent Ovais Ahmed to Afghanistan to win the hearts and minds of local leaders.

His next challenge, a frightening one for him, is to win the hearts and minds of employers in Canada.

Ahmed's not alone. Hundreds of ex-military members will be coming to the Royal York Hotel on Oct. 27 to do on-the-spot interviews with more than 70 prospective employers at the National Transition Symposium, hosted by the non-profit Canada Company.

Canada Company runs the Military Employment Transition (MET) program that connects ex-military members, including many young ones like Ahmed, with employers.

It helps veterans with job search skills and networking. Employers, meanwhile, get a better understanding about skills veterans can bring to the workforce.

Ahmed's story is common.

He signed up with the Forces in 2004, at 19, right out of high school. In 2007, he was deployed to Afghanistan as a driver and then a gunner in an armoured vehicle.

"That deployment was the harsher of my deployments, it was very combat-intense," he said.

His second deployment in Afghanistan, on a hearts and minds mission, was in 2010.

Ryerson University student Ovais Ahmed says Canada Company is helping him transition from uniform to suit. LIZ BEDDALL / METRO

Soon after, he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and started treatment while leaving the military and figuring out what to do next.

He's set to receive an honourable discharge from the military in early 2016, and then, after three more semesters, graduate from Ryerson University with a degree in commerce.

Canada Company has been guiding him through the process of finding a career path that suits the skills he learned in the military and put him in contact with mentors and potential employers.

That guidance is reassuring, he said, because even for someone who's faced Taliban insurgents, the prospect of entering the civilian work force is scary.

"A lot of men and women in my position are leaving something they've known their whole lives — the military," he said. "As quick as snapping their fingers, they're civilian and that's terrifying.

"You don't know what's going to happen the next, when, in the military, you had a forecast of what was going to happen for the next year."

Ahmed has a family, and wants to make sure his transition from military to school to the business world seamless.

Canada Company has made that seem possible.

"Networking is now my secret weapon," he said.

EPIC HANGAR PARTY

Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Jonathan Vance will give the keynote speech at the Oct. 27 National Transition Symposium.

That evening, Vance will award five "military-friendly employers" with medals in what's been dubbed the Epic Hanger Party at the Billy Bishop Airport.

Those employers have been part of Canada Company's Military 101 program, which has taught the leaders of more than 140 companies about the military and the many skills veterans bring to the civilian world.

About 5,000 veterans are registered with the program, and more than 1,081 have been successfully placed in jobs since 2014.

Funding for Canada Company comes from its members, a core group of philanthropists, along with donations from Canada's major banks, said Dwayne Cormier, director of transition services. METRO

HOME CARE

Caring is double the stress

A new report says the stress load on people helping to care for an elderly or sick family member or friend has more than doubled in Ontario in the past four years.

Health Quality Ontario says 33 per cent of people who care for loved ones at home reported feeling distress, anger or depression in 2013-14, up from 16 per cent in 2008-09.

The government advisory group says almost all home care patients rely on an informal caregiver for everything from shopping and transportation to managing medications and helping with personal care.

However, one third of those caregivers say they are too stressed out to do it any longer.

The annual report from Health Quality Ontario also found patients in hospitals are waiting an average of 69 days to get into long-term care homes — an increase of nearly three weeks from four years earlier.

People at home who need a long-term care bed have seen the wait reduced by 74 days, but wait an average of 116 days, or just under four months.

Health Quality Ontario reports most of its home care indicators did not improve year over year, but it also found 92 per cent of patients said they had a positive experience with the services they received.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VITAL STATS

... Now some good news

Other findings from the 2015 annual report show:

- Ontario's smoking rate fell from 21 to 18 per cent between 2007 and 2013
- Inactivity is down from 50 to 45 per cent since 2007
- The number of family doctors increased from 93 to 107 per 100,000 residents
- The number of specialists increased from 85 to 93 per 100,000 residents
- Wait times for cancer surgeries and hip and knee replacements held steady, but more are getting those procedures each year within target deadlines

Health Quality Ontario says flat results are not a bad sign, and the growing size and complexity of the population means they might represent progress.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Drug-laced lollipops lead to arrest of teen

Durham Regional Police urge the public not to get suckered in by lollipops laced with drugs.

Police discovered the candy Tuesday when local parents reached out after finding drugs on their son.

When police came to the home, they found three lollipops crudely wrapped with clear paper bound by colourful elastic bands.

Police believe the candies have been laced with an opiate or THC, the active ingredient in marijuana.

The lollipops have been sent for further analysis and police are urging the public to come forward with any information they may have.

A 17-year-old male was arrested for drug possession.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HONOUR KILLING

Shafias seek murder retrial

A father, mother and their son, all convicted of first-degree murder in the deaths of four members of their family, are asking Ontario's highest court for new trials.

In documents filed with the Ontario Court of Appeal, Mohammad Shafia, his wife Tooba Yahya and their son Hamed argue, among other issues, that their trial judge should not have admitted evidence from an expert on so-called honour killings.

The three were convicted in January 2012 of four counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of daughters Zainab, 19, Sahar, 17, and Geeti, 13, and Mohammad Shafia's first wife in a polygamous marriage, fifty-two-year-old Rona Amir Mohammad.

The victims' bodies were found on June 30, 2009, in a car at the bottom of a canal in Kingston.

The Crown at the trial asserted the murders were committed after the girls shamed the family by dating and acting out, and Amir Mohammad was simply disposed of.

The trial judge described the killings as being motivated by the Shafias' "twisted concept of honour."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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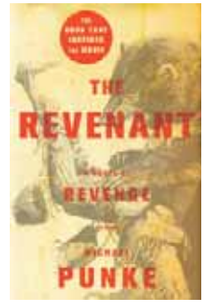

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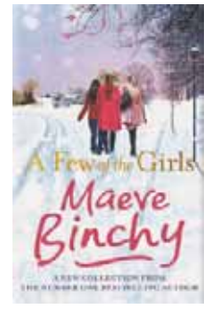

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READY TO ENGAGE

Metro's daily primer on what the parties are saying about the issues that matter to urban Canadians

Zunera Ishaq is seen after the Federal Court of Appeal heard her case on whether she could wear a niqab while taking her citizenship oath. By characterizing the niqab issue as a matter of aberrant or extreme behaviour, Stephen Harper struck a chord with an "extreme-o-phobic" Canadian public, Rosemary Westwood argues. PATRICK DOYLE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's cult of moderation

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
Metro

"Everything in moderation," my grandmother used to say.

My dad says it now, often, reminding me it was his mother's phrase. Perhaps she inherited it, too. It feels so true, I've never questioned it. I doubt either of them did.

It's also a very Canadian thing to say: middle of the road, balanced, offending no one, committing to nothing.

It's the kind idea that underlies our temperament, as Canadians. Our boringness is our strongest asset, we tell ourselves. Our rejection of the extremes means we never stray too far into action, lest it be the wrong kind.

There is no greater Canadian value. It's why we can't get enough of American politics, while feeling smug that we're nowhere near as crazy.

Among other things, the fact that the NDP hasn't governed a country before has played into their sliding poll numbers. People have told me they're not sure what an NDP government would look like. Better to vote for what you know, than take a chance on what you don't. Moderate change, but not too much.

We approve of immigration, but we don't want anyone too hardline in their beliefs. We value our health care, but we don't really want to talk about all the holes in our system and how universal it really is. We care about climate change, but we'd never vote Naomi Klein into office; her ideas are fine in a book — unthinkable on Parliament Hill.

Even our villains, if that's how you see Stephen Harper, are subtler than many. Harper is nowhere near the calibre of a Donald Trump zealot, which isn't to say I don't disagree with many of his policies, but is to say they fall on us with a much lighter touch. In fact, his careful rightward steering is a perfect picture of moderately plodding your ideological path — so as not to wake the nation.

We may say we've woken, with a kind of anti-Harperism that isn't very Canadian, which is to say, isn't very measured.

The "anyone but Conservative" memes populating my Facebook feed, the high-pitched pleas to "heave Steve!" condemn him as un-Canadian, worse than Agent Smith of the Matrix, worse than Scar from the Lion King. Worse than Voldemort.

It's nice to see emotions run high, in a country where they mostly seem to make us uncomfortable. But we have been wrong to blame him for letting a bit of clothing carry the campaign away.

It's moderation we have to thank for an explosive debate on so-called "Canadian values."

Moderation birthed the niqab madness, not, as so many have been bemoaning, xenophobia. Sure, we have our share of bigotry (Harper himself might have some), but eight in 10 Canadians aren't xenophobic, they're extreme-o-phobic. Harper succeeded in turning the niqab into a week's worth of headlines by framing it not around immigration, but extremism.

I, like you, have been watching the polls. I, like you, have been wondering why a need to define ourselves — what we are — has so dominated this election. It's as if we really hoped a new leader would come along and answer the question, because we do not know.

But Canadians are many things.

We are right, and we are left, and we are so-called old stock, and so-called new, and "we" really only refers to people living in this country, who agree that democracy is good, if we agree on nothing else.

Except, of course, moderation.

2015 ELECTION COUNTDOWN

Rosie Westwood reflects on the key issues.

- TUES. Women
- WED. Environment
- **THURS. Canadian values**
- FRI. Youth engagement

> **Moderation birthed the niqab madness, not ... xenophobia. Sure, we have our share of bigotry ... but eight in 10 Canadians aren't xenophobic, they're extreme-o-phobic.**

QUICK GUIDE
SECURITY & CITIZENSHIP

Here's a breakdown of promises and legislative measures from the **NDP**, **Liberals**, **Conservatives** and **Greens**

ON BILL C-51	ON BILL C-24
Conservatives: • Passed the bill, which outlaws promoting terrorism; gives CSIS new powers; makes it easier to arrest terror suspects; allows 100 agencies to exchange Canadians' confidential information.	**Conservatives:** • Passed the bill, which allows the federal government to strip Canadian citizenship from dual citizens convicted of terrorist offences.
Liberals: • Promised to amend the bill by limiting to 17 the agencies empowered to exchange confidential info; eliminating CSIS's new powers; adding "sunset clause" on aspects.	**Liberals:** • Promised to repeal the bill.
NDP: • Promised to repeal the bill in its entirety.	**NDP:** • Promised to repeal the bill.
Greens: Promised to repeal the bill in its entirety.	**Greens:** • Promised to repeal the bill.

LATEST POLL LIB 36% CON 31% NDP 21% Source: EKOS/iPolitics

Trudeau: Give us a majority

ELECTION 2015

Liberals look to do what they haven't since Chrétien days

Justin Trudeau is asking Canadians to give his Liberals something they haven't had a taste of in a while: a majority mandate.

The Liberal leader made the comment Wednesday as polls suggest his party has been enjoying some late-campaign momentum and as the scrutiny of Trudeau intensifies in the lead-up to Monday's vote.

"I know that Canadians will make the right decision," Trudeau said at Mohawk College when asked about a majority.

"Am I asking Canadians to vote for us? Yes. Am I asking them to vote for us across the country? Yes. Am I asking them for a majority government? Yes."

Several news outlets quickly reported Trudeau's comment, which prompted one of his staffers to point out that his main rivals have also asked for majority governments during the campaign.

The party sent emails to reporters filled with quotes from both Conservative Leader Stephen Harper and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair asking voters for majorities.

Trudeau has indicated in the past that a Liberal minority wouldn't do, because Canadians want a strong, stable government with MPs from across the country.

A party must capture at least 170 seats to hold a bare majority in the House of Commons, which will have 338 seats in the next Parliament. The Liberals held just 36 seats at dissolution.

The last time the Liberals won a majority was in the 2000 election, when they were led by Jean Chrétien.

Trudeau was also asked Wednesday how he would stay in power if he wins a minority mandate and whether he would be prepared to work with Mulcair if the Tories earn a minority.

One of the great things about elections is that Canadians get to choose what their government is and what their Parliament will look like, he responded.

"What Canadians don't want is politicians organizing backroom deals around who actually gets to wield power," Trudeau said.

"I trust Canadians. I know that Canadians are going to make a real and strong choice on Oct. 19."

In recent days, the Liberal campaign has been focused on targeting ridings won by both Conservatives and New Democrats in the 2011 election.

On Wednesday, Trudeau's tour blitzed the Niagara Peninsula and the Toronto suburbs with whistle-stop events as part of a push one of his staffers described as being "on offence."

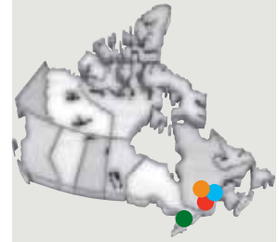
At each stop, the Liberal leader is greeted by hundreds of boisterous supporters.

At times, partisans have jostled — sometimes aggressively — in packed restaurants, bakeries and bars just for a chance to get a selfie with Trudeau, his autograph or even a handshake.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Justin Trudeau's campaign has focused on ridings won by Tories and New Democrats in 2011. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE LEADERS



- **Stephen Harper** will be in Trois-Rivières, Que., Thursday
- **Justin Trudeau** will be in Quebec in Montreal, Laval and Sainte-Thérèse.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in Quebec in Alma, Cookshire-Eaton and Sherbrooke.
- **Elizabeth May** will be in Guelph.

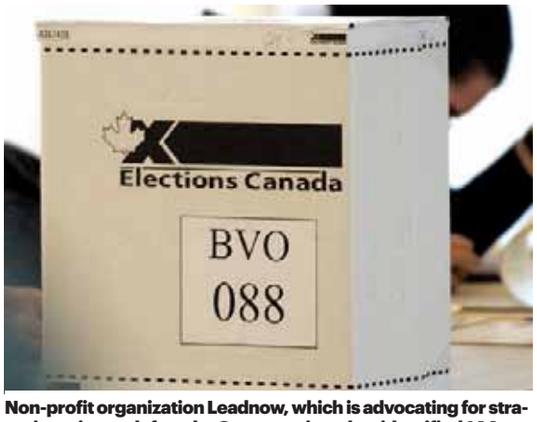
How to make up your mind about voting for in 20 minutes or less

Kate Webb
For Metro

Is your head spinning because of this election? Have niqabs, refugees, budget deficits and pipelines got you confused?

You are definitely not alone. According to the most recent Ipsos poll, conducted over the last week, only 56 per cent of eligible voters were "absolutely certain" of who they were going to vote for on Oct. 19.

So how can you vote with confidence? Metro has answers to the most common questions, and a guide to get you there in three easy steps.



Non-profit organization Leadnow, which is advocating for strategic voting to defeat the Conservatives, has identified 144 out of 338 ridings across the country as places where strategic voting could make a difference. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

I don't know what riding I'm in/where to vote

STEP 1: Go to elections.ca and type in your postal code to find out.

I can't decide who to vote for

STEP 2: There's a handy-dandy quiz for that! It only takes about 5-10 minutes.

Go to votecompass.com and select Canada.

It will ask your opinion on everything from economic policy to national child care.

Some of the questions are HARD. Don't feel bad if you don't know an answer — many of the world's top experts and policy makers don't agree (that's why there's an election!). Just select "I don't know" and move on the next question.

So then I'm done, right? I'll know who to vote for?

Not necessarily. There is one more step you could take before you head to the polls if you largely agree with the platforms of two or more parties, and if you live in a riding where there is a tight race.

Strategic voting is when you vote for your second, third or even fourth-choice candidate to try to prevent your least-preferred candidate from winning.

The non-profit organization Leadnow, which is advocating for strategic voting to defeat the Conservatives, has identified 144 out of 338 ridings across the country as places where strategic voting could make the difference between a Conservative and a Liberal or NDP winning. (Full disclosure: this reporter is a volunteer with Leadnow.)

University of British Columbia political scientist Fred Cutler, who is one of four investigators tasked with studying this election for Elections Canada, says the question of whether to vote strategically is a moral one.

"If the voting act is to try and produce a federal government that is closest to your preferences, then voting strategically is something that you definitely should do," he said.

"If you think your vote is more of an expressive thing because the odds of swinging your seat are tiny, and you might feel some kind of regret about voting for a local candidate whose party you don't prefer, then you shouldn't do it."

CHEAT-SHEET FOR THE UNDECIDED

STEP 1
Go to elections.ca to find out the name of your riding and where to vote.
STEP 2
Go to votecompass.com and figure out where you stand on the issues .
STEP 3
Decide whether strategic voting is right for you. If so, search the name of your riding at threehundredeight.com or votetogether.ca to see how your first choice candidate is polling. If they are trailing, look at the candidates in second and third place and decide whether voting for one of them might be more likely to lead to your desired outcome.

KATE WEBB/FOR METRO

In order to vote strategically, though, you need to look at polls.

But isn't polling inaccurate?

Actually, Cutler believes polling is more accurate than ever — it just depends on what polls you look at.

If you want to vote strategically, the most important thing is to look at riding-level polls, not national ones, because national polls can't tell you what is happening in your riding.

Which brings us to **STEP 3**, explained by Cutler:

"People who really want to know what's going on, up to date, in their local riding, in my view should use one of the websites like threehundredeight.com or votetogether.ca," he said, "because those people are using the local polling plus previous results, plus any changes in the polls that are going on nationally now, and applying them to the local races."

Freelance reporter Kate Webb is a graduate in political science from the University of British Columbia and a volunteer with Leadnow's non-profit strategic voting initiative, votetogether.ca.

Generation shunned

ELECTION 2015

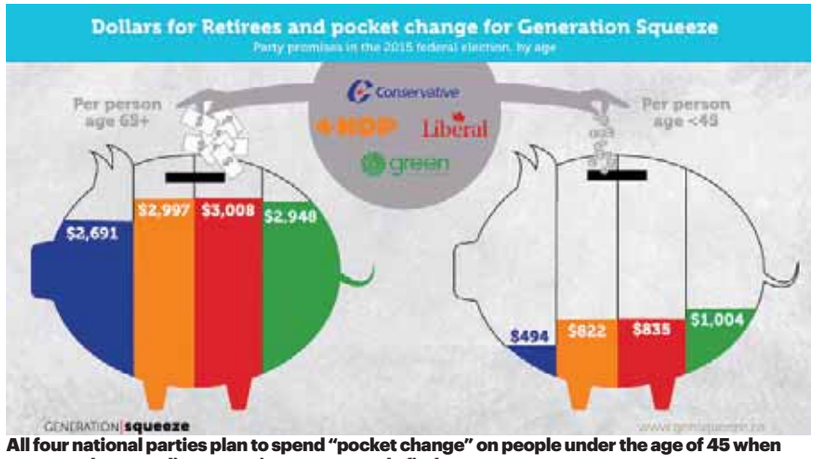
Major parties offer a pittance to nation's young adults

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

All four major federal parties are throwing mere "pocket change" at young voters, according to a new Generation Squeeze report comparing election platforms.

Despite the fact seniors will make up just 18 per cent of Canada's population in 2019, the Conservatives, Liberals, NDP and Greens have all pledged to boost between $18 to $20 billion in new funding for items like Old Age Security, income supplements, benefits, seniors care and health-care transfers to provinces.

Meanwhile, the Conservatives have pledged just 18 cents on issues that affect young adults for every dollar they spend on seniors.



All four national parties plan to spend "pocket change" on people under the age of 45 when compared to spending on seniors, a new study finds. CONTRIBUTED

The NDP's platform increases that to 27 cents for every dollar that goes to seniors, 28 under the Liberals and 34 cents from the Greens.

And that's at a time when adults under the age of 45 make up 55 per cent of the population, face higher unemployment rates, mounting debt and — for the first time — a deteriorating standard of living.

Generation Squeeze founder Dr. Paul Kershaw, of the University of British Columbia's School of Population & Public Health, believes the funding gap between generations stems from society's ongoing efforts to improve senior care and poverty since the '70s and the lack of political engagement by youth.

"Young Canadians are just simply less involved in the political world," said Kershaw.

Generation Squeeze recommends government spend an additional $1,000 for every person under the age of 45.

Currently, the government spends $20,868 on average for each of the 5.8 million Canadians aged 65 and up, compared to $4,349 each for the 20.1 million people under age 45, according to the report.

ENVIRONMENT

Parties graded on climate change

Only the NDP and Green Parties have promised to put a price on carbon and have set long-term emissions targets, according to the David Suzuki Foundation.

The environmental organization releases its 2015 party platform cheat sheet on Thursday, which shows were every national party stands on 20 climate change issues.

According to the guide, only the Liberals have not committed to any specific emission reduction targets (the Conservatives want to lower emissions 14.4 per cent by 2030, while the NDP and Green have set a 2050 target of 80 per cent).

The Greens and NDP are the only parties to commit to protecting the right to live in a healthy environment in law.

The Conservatives are the only party to support all major proposed energy projects: Keystone XL (which the Liberals also support), Energy East and Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline (NDP and Liberals have taken no official stance on either) and Northern Gateway (all other parties are opposed).

Every party except for the Conservatives has also promised to end fossil fuel subsidies, ban oil tankers on B.C.'s coast, and establish a Parliamentary science officer.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO IN VANCOUVER

IN BRIEF

Sewage plans backing up

The federal government is "irresponsible and negligent" to have ordered a halt to Montreal's plans to begin construction work that would see eight billion litres of raw sewage dumped into the St. Lawrence River, Mayor Denis Coderre said Wednesday. Coderre said Ottawa's decision "makes no sense" and puts the city's water-treatment infrastructure in jeopardy. Infrastructure Minister Denis Lebel made the announcement earlier on Wednesday on behalf of Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tunnel's open!

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SUDBURY
THUNDER BAY
TIMMINS
TORONTO
WINDSOR
BOSTON
BURLINGTON, VT
CHARLESTON, SC
CHICAGO
MYRTLE BEACH
NEW YORK
ORLANDO-MELBOURNE
PITTSBURGH
WASHINGTON

Community mourns death of sisters in farm tragedy

ALBERTA

Three siblings suffocate in pile of seeds

Three young sisters were playing in their family's loaded grain truck when they became trapped and suffocated in a dense pile of tiny canola seeds that experts say would have swallowed them like quicksand.

Thirteen-year-old Catie Bott, and 11-year-old twins Dara and Jana were buried around suppertime Tuesday during the busy harvest season on the farm near Withrow in west-central Alberta. Their parents and neighbours worked furiously to free them from the truck and performed CPR, but two of the girls could not be revived. The third was taken by air ambulance to hospital in Edmonton, but she died overnight.

"Our kids died living life on the farm," the parents said in a statement released Wednesday by RCMP. "It is a family farm. We do not regret raising and involving our kids ... on our farm. It was our life."

A family photo on Roger Bott's Facebook page shows the three blond girls with their parents and brother sitting on some grass beside a farm truck, their faces glowing in the sun, as they have a picnic. Roger Bott is wearing a green T-shirt that reads "Born to Farm."

The family is well-known and has roots in the area, said Ted Hickey, director of community and protective services with Clearwater County. He rushed to the farm with other emergency workers to find the girls had already been pulled from the pile. People used shovels to free them but it took "extraordinary" effort, he said. Their parents were in shock and relying on their Christian faith to help them, Hickey said. "They were very stoic to the point of actually coming up to first responders and thanking them for all they did for their daughters." THE CANADIAN PRESS

BACKGROUND

Canola is a plant with a bright yellow flower in the same family as cauliflower and cabbage. When crushed, the fine seeds produce oil that is used in everything from margarine to biodiesel.

RCMP Sgt. Mike Numan speaks to the media from the RCMP detachment in Rocky Mountain House, Alta., Wednesday, about the deaths of three girls on a farm near Withrow, Alta. Jeff McIntosh. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MANITOBA

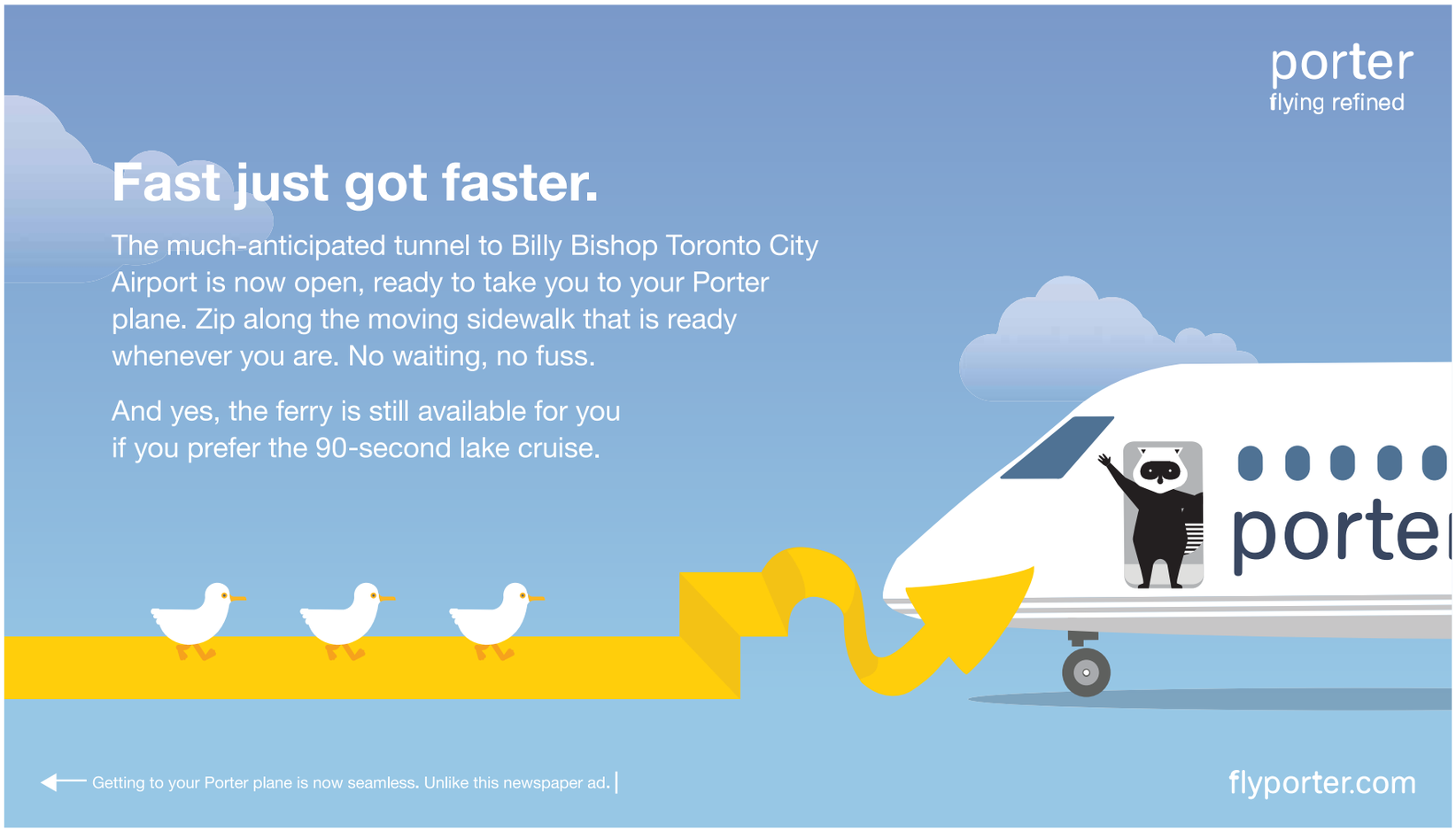
Woman sentenced 'catfishing' scheme

A reclusive northern Manitoba woman who came close to ruining the career of a professional athlete after impersonating him and others online is behind bars after being sentenced to 18 months in jail.

Shelly Chartier pleaded guilty in August to seven counts of fraud and other offences in a so-called "catfishing" scheme that entangled the athlete in a child porn investigation and led to a raid of his home in 2012.

In his decision Wednesday, Judge Ryan Rolston described 32-year-old Chartier as a lonely recluse with a Grade 6 education who left school after being stabbed in the back with a pencil. She rarely left the house and the only social event she had ever attended was her uncle's wedding at the age of eight.

"Shelly Chartier hid from the realities of her life," he wrote. Adding, she used her "victims as players in her fantasy world." THE CANADIAN PRESS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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Troops move in under Russian cover: Official

SYRIA

Support for Assad coming from Iran, source says

Iran has sent hundreds of troops into northern and central Syria in the first such open deployment in the country's civil war, joining fighters from its Lebanese ally Hezbollah in an offensive against rebels and taking advantage of cover from Russia's air campaign, a regional official and Syrian activists said Wednesday

Their arrival is almost certain to fuel the civil war in Syria, which has already claimed the lives of more than 250,000 people and displaced half of the country's population. It also highlights the far-reaching goals of Russia's military involvement in Syria.

Russia began carrying out airstrikes in Syria on Sept. 30, and Syrian troops and allied militiamen began a ground offensive against rebels in central Syria a week later. Russia says its airstrikes are meant to weaken the Islamic State group (ISIL) and other terrorists in Syria, but Western officials and Syrian rebels say most the strikes have focused on areas in central and northern Syria where the extremist group does not have a strong presence.

The arrival of Iranian troops fighting under the cover of Russian air power further strengthens the view that Russia's main goal is to shore up Syrian President Bashar Assad's embattled government.

"Sending more troops from Hezbollah, and Iran only increases the shelf life of the Syrian regime, which is destined to end," Maj. Jamil Saleh, the leader of Tajammu Alezzah, a CIA-backed Free Syrian Army faction, said. "It will only add more destruction and displacement."

He said their presence on the ground is not new, but was kept quiet. "Now they are taking cover behind Russia since it is a superpower and strengthens their position," Alezzah said.

The official, who has deep knowledge of operational details in Syria, said the Iranian fighters — currently numbering around 1,500 — began arriving in Syria about two weeks ago, after the Russian airstrikes began, and have accelerated in recent days. The Iranian-backed Hezbollah group has also sent a fresh wave of fighters to Syria, he said.

A Lebanese boy holds a placard depicting Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov that reads, "Assad or we burn the country," during a sit-in in front the Russian embassy, in Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday. HUSSEIN MALLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **Sending more troops from Hezbollah, and Iran only increases the shelf life of the Syrian regime.**
> Maj. Jamil Saleh

He said the Iranian fighters were arriving at Damascus airport and transported to a military base in the coastal town of Latakia from where they were deploying on the ground, mainly in the northern provinces of Idlib and Aleppo province.

He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss military affairs.

The official said the Iranian troops and their allies were building up for a huge offensive against insurgents in Aleppo province, which would be announced in the coming days.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported Wednesday that Iranian troops were arriving in Syria and were transported to the military base in the town of Jableh.

Iranian and Syrian officials have long maintained that Iran has advisers and military experts in Syria, denying any ground troops. Wednesday's news is the first confirmation of Iranian fighters taking part in combat operations in Syria. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CORRECTION: Advance Polls Ad Placed in Error

On Wednesday, October 14, *Metro News* published an advertisement by Elections Canada about advance polls. This was due to a placement error. Advance polls were October 9 to 12, and are already closed.

The ad that should have run yesterday states that election day is Monday, October 19. Our advertising staff regret any confusion this has caused.

You can get all the information you need to vote in the federal election at **elections.ca**

IN BRIEF

Appeal for new probe into plan crash

Russia has appealed to the International Civil Aviation Organization to open a new probe into last year's downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine, the chief of the Russian aviation agency said Wednesday.

The Boeing 777 crashed on July 17, 2014, in the middle of a military conflict between Russia-backed separatists and Ukrainian government forces.

The Dutch Safety Board said in its final report released on Tuesday that the jet was destroyed by a Soviet-made surface-to-air missile. Two-thirds of the 298 people who died were Dutch. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putin chides officials for delays in space centre

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday chided officials for a four-month delay in building a sprawling space centre in the remote Far East, which has been dogged by corruption scandals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Child migrants aided

GERMANY

'Welcome classes' set up for kids in huge wave of refugees

The word "Willkommensklasse" (Welcome Class) is displayed at an elementary school in Berlin last week. MARKUS SCHREIBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Fadi and Fadiya started school in Berlin last month not knowing a word of German.

The 9-year-old twins from Syria are among nearly 400,000 children among a wave of up to 1 million migrants and refugees expected in Germany this year alone.

All around the country, schools have added extra teachers and "welcome classes" to teach kids like Fadi and Fadiya the basics of German before they are integrated into regular classrooms about six to eight months later.

As a new school year began last month, Berlin's schools saw non-German speaking children jump by 70 per cent. There are now 478 welcome classes in the capital alone for roughly 5,000 children.

Fadi and his sister Fadiya were among 20 new arrivals from 11 countries in the welcome class offered by an elementary school.

The children ages 6 to 12 came from Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, Bosnia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Korea, Ghana and the U.S.

Not all were refugees. Some, for example, were children of parents who had relocated to Germany for work.

"Some of those kids have never seen a school from the inside because they spent years hiding in basements from bombs," said principal Irina Wissmann.

"But we're trying to get them used to our routines as quickly as possible — it's the best thing that can happen to them right now."

Many of the children present special challenges.

"We had one child who would hide under the desk during the lesson and scream in panic, scaring off all the other kids as well," Wissmann said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHINA

Ancient teeth shed light on man's roots

Dozens of fossil human teeth from a cave in China show that people lived in southern Asia more than 80,000 years ago, researchers report.

Before this, the earliest well-dated fossils firmly linked to our species in southern Asia were only around 45,000 years old.

Our species, Homo sapiens, is thought to have appeared in Africa around 200,000 years ago and later spread to other continents. The details of that dispersal are still murky.

The discovery in China's Hunan province argues against a theory that the first wave reached southern Asia only about 60,000 years ago.

The finding may mean that people arrived in multiple waves, said Maria Martinon-Torres of University College London, a study author.

She and authors from China and elsewhere reported the discovery of 47 teeth in the journal Nature on Wednesday.

They could not date the teeth directly, but analysis of nearby mineral samples and animal fossils indicated the teeth are somewhere between 80,000 and 120,000 years old.

Human lower teeth found in the Fuyan Cave southern China. S. XING/NATURE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The finding raises the question of why our species didn't enter Europe until only about 40,000 to 45,000 years ago. Maybe Neanderthals crowded them out, basically out-competing them as hunter-gatherers until their populations started to fade, the researchers suggest.

In a journal commentary, Robin Dennell of the University of Exeter in England suggests that cold winters might be a better explanation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal election day is Monday

Are you ready to vote?

If you're a Canadian citizen, 18 or older, you can vote in the federal election.

Your voter information card tells you when and where to vote.

If you didn't receive your card, you can still register and vote at your polling place.

To find out where to vote, and what ID to bring, visit **elections.ca** or call **1-800-463-6868 (TTY 1-800-361-8935)**.

Elections Canada has all the information you need to be ready to vote.

Ready to vote
October 19, 2015

Elections Canada

Shopify using Uber to deliver packages

Shopify and Uber are working together to offer same-day local delivery starting today in three major U.S. cities.

The UberRUSH program will be initially available to a select number of Shopify's merchant clients in New York City, Chicago and San Francisco but it's expected to go to other cities over time.

Ottawa-based Shopify says merchants enrolled in the program will be able to provide their customers with the option of requesting an Uber pickup and delivery — which can be tracked with an app.

Its Uber deal follows a partnership last month with Amazon, which has agreed to provide Shopify merchants with a gateway to the e-commerce giant's systems and warehouses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Hacks spur firms to seek cyber-insurance

PROTECTION

Data security third-biggest risk in Canada, survey finds

In the wake of the Ashley Madison hack and other high-profile data breaches, Canadian companies are turning to so-called cyber insurance to protect themselves from the fallout of data leaks.

The ensuing class-action lawsuit — and adultery website founder and CEO Noel Biderman's decision to step down in late August — were the latest in a series of incidents that experts say represent a wake-up call for executives about the real-world consequences of digital vulnerabilities.

Duncan Stewart, director of technology research at Deloitte, said the past year has seen a surge in awareness about cyberattacks, and companies are turning to insurers to prepare for what seems an inevitability in an increasingly interconnected world. "The number of attacks are rising, the severity is rising, and when they come, they're more difficult to deal with," he said.

The Ashley Madison breach is a wake-up call for companies about digital vulnerabilities, experts say. THE CANADIAN PRESS

There is no legal requirement for companies to report a hack in Canada, making the true number difficult to determine, but security company Websense said in August 2014 that 36 per cent of Canadian businesses had observed a breach in their IT security in the last 12 months.

In a KPMG survey of Canadian property insurance executives, data security even beat out unexpected catastrophic events as the third-biggest risk facing Canadian companies in 2015 after regulatory burdens and low interest rates.

Stewart compared significant breaches like the Ashley Madison hack to automobile collisions that result in a total write-off, yet he said companies also require coverage for the small attacks and fender-benders of cybersecurity that happen far more often.

Insurance against cyberattacks is now just a part of the cost of doing business, he said.

"You wouldn't have a factory and not have fire insurance, so why would you think about not having cyber insurance?"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CEO Doug McMillon sought to reassure investors at its annual meeting in New York City on Wednesday that Walmart is transforming to compete with rivals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Competition hurts Walmart's profits

SHOPPING

Stock plunges after warning from world's biggest retailer

Walmart stock had its biggest one-day drop in nearly three decades after the world's largest retailer said it's bracing for its profit to take a hit as it works to fend off competition.

The company is forecasting its profit to fall by as much as 12 per cent in its next fiscal year as it perks up customer service and adapts to changing shopping habits. It also expects sales for this full fiscal year to be flat, hurt by unfavourable currency-exchange rates.

Its stock closed down $6.70 US, or 10 per cent, at $60.03 US in New York on Wednesday.

The disappointing guidance comes as the company, Wal-Mart Stores Inc., works to fix its U.S. business amid pressure from rivals, including traditional grocers, dollar stores and Amazon.com.

At its annual meeting in New York City on Wednesday, CEO Doug McMillon sought to reassure investors that the company is transforming to keep up with a rapidly changing retail landscape.

"We all know that retail has changed and will continue to change at an accelerating pace," said McMillon, who took the job in February 2014.

Under McMillon, Walmart has accelerated the openings of smaller stores, which tend to be more conveniently located and let customers get in and out faster. The company is also stepping up its e-commerce efforts. On Wednesday, it said it was expanding its online grocery with free pickup to 10 additional markets, making the service available in a total of 20 markets in the U.S.

> **Retail has changed and will continue to change at an accelerating pace**
> Doug McMillon

Such moves, along with a push to improve the cleanliness of its U.S. stores, are expected to help attract more higher-income customers than in the past, McMillon said. But he noted the company would also remain focused on shoppers driven by value.

Walmart is under pressure on that front as well, with smaller discounters posing a greater threat. The company said its store brands will play a key role in addressing the "price gap" between itself and discounters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

market minute

DOLLAR
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TSX
13,875.33 (+30.60)

OIL
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NATURAL GAS: $2.518 US (+2.0¢)
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Strange mix : The U.S. National Institutes of Health has temporarily put the brakes on a $500K grant to experiment with animal-human hybrid cells to let experts puzzle over the ethical issues.

CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON A STABLE HOUSE OF COMMONS

“Trudeau is — at campaign’s end — better positioned than Stephen Harper to craft a viable minority government.

With the wind at his back in the last week of the campaign, Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau is asking voters to give his party a majority on Monday. To measure what a feat that would be, consider that to reach the magic majority number of 170, the Liberals — with 36 MPs at dissolution — would have to more than quadruple their seats next week.

A leap of that magnitude may turn out not to be in the cards but Trudeau is — at campaign’s end — better positioned than Stephen Harper to craft a viable minority government.

The poll numbers tell only part of the story.

With just five days to go in the campaign, it is easier to project a Conservative defeat than a majority victory.

Three polls this week pegged Harper’s party more than 10 points behind the Liberals in Ontario and trailing by five to seven points nationally.

With those numbers, the Conservatives would need most three-way local battles to break their way to eke out a narrow minority win on Monday. And that victory could amount to little more than a pit stop en route to the opposition benches, or to another election.

Citing irreconcilable policy differences with the Conservatives, the other parties have all pre-emptively warned they would bring down a Harper-led minority government at the first opportunity.

In short, such a government would be dead on arrival in the House of Commons.

By comparison, a Liberal minority government would not have to look all that hard to find enough opposition support to survive and to implement most of its platform.

Yes, there is plenty of animosity between the Liberals and their rivals — in particular the NDP — but as Harper himself demonstrated twice, reciprocal affection is not a precondition to a stable parliamentary relationship.

Having foreclosed the option of keeping Harper in power, the NDP would have little alternative but to do what it takes to make the Liberal alternative work.

In most instances, that would involve the New Democrats putting water into their wine or, in this case, putting wine in the water of their cautious platform.

The two parties disagree on fiscal policy.

Mulcair spent the campaign preaching the need to balance the federal budget each and every year of the next mandate. Trudeau is planning to run deficits for three years.

But would many New Democrat voters truly want their party to bring down a Liberal government for running deficits and spending more on Canada’s social and physical infrastructure?

And what of Trudeau’s plan to cut off the federal child benefits of high-income families to redistribute the money to the less wealthy ones? Would the NDP really hold a parliamentary knife to the throat of a minority government in the name of the more well-off Canadians?

The line in the NDP/Liberal sand rarely gets deeper than on the issue of C-51, the Conservatives’ controversial anti-terrorism legislation. Mulcair has vouched to scrap it while Trudeau — whose party voted for its adoption — has promised to improve it.

It is unlikely that a minority Liberal government would stake its survival on getting its amendments to C-51 through Parliament. But would the NDP oppose corrective amendments such as the introduction of parliamentary oversight of Canada’s security services, if the alternative was to leave unchanged the law passed under the Conservatives?

Mulcair has made it clear that no amount of Senate reform can reconcile his party with the continued existence of the institution.

Fair enough, but Trudeau does not need the support of another party to set up an arms-length process to select the future members of the upper house. The way a prime minister goes about getting advice for Senate appointments is left to his discretion.

If he were prime minister, Mulcair would scrap the just-negotiated Trans-Pacific Partnership. Trudeau has kept his options open, subject to the fine print of the deal.

But a Liberal minority government would not need the NDP to ratify the TPP, for it could count on Conservative support to do so.

Finding enough common ground to defeat a minority Liberal government would not come easily to the New Democrats and the Conservatives, or at least not for a while.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: Dripping with deceit

The world’s gem giants are worried the diamond industry’s reputation might lose some of its shine in a market flooded with fakes. In a panicky presentation this week at the World Diamond Council meeting in Moscow, dealers were warned about clever copies that are either entirely lab-made or created by combining diamond cores or coatings with inferior bits of plastic, glass or cubic zirconia. In many cases, the imposters are getting mixed in with real jewels from large and well known companies. Jangling the alarm about this troubling trend was the president of the partially state-owned Russian diamond miner ALROSA, which produces a quarter of the world’s (real) diamonds. SOURCE: CNBC

metroview

In Fahmy case, Harper prioritized politics ahead of human rights

Steven Zhou
For Metro

The return of journalist Mohamed Fahmy to Canada this week after 400 days in an Egyptian prison couldn’t have been timelier.

It’s a reminder that Canadians should think about how much their candidates really care about human rights when they head to the polls in less than a week’s time. Fahmy, a former Al Jazeera English journalist, isn’t happy at all with the way Stephen Harper’s administration handled his situation. And he’s right to say that the Tories could have done a lot more for him.

Along with two colleagues, Fahmy was arrested in December 2013 for what are now widely denounced terror-related charges. He said in his first press conference in Canada that he felt “betrayed and abandoned” by his own government as the Harper administration dragged its feet.

Fahmy’s best chance at freedom was for Harper to personally intervene at the highest level, but it wasn’t until he was recently sentenced to three more years in prison (in another Egyptian show-trial) did the Canadian government truly step in on his behalf. By then, Fahmy had already spent hundreds of days in jail.

The Harper government allows politics and ideology to infringe on its theoretical commitment to human rights. Its reluctance to accept Syrian refugees in a timely way is another good example. But the Fahmy case boiled the situation down to one person, one face, and showed how the administration wasn’t much interested in advocating speedily for one of its own citizens.

The Egyptian government under Abdel Fattah el-Sisi was gaining notoriety at the time of Fahmy’s arrest (right after toppling the elected government of the Muslim Brotherhood’s Mohamed Morsi) for locking up anyone who publicly disagreed with the administration. The arrest was clearly a violation of freedom of speech and of the press. But Prime Minster Harper wasn’t interested even in knocking off such low-hanging fruit.

It’s worth asking what this all means for a Canada that’s lost a lot of international standing during the Harper years, and has become all bark and no bite when it comes to human rights.

It’s become more and more obvious that the Canadian government is focused narrowly on denouncing its international rivals while bolstering its allies — all with little attention paid to the actual human consequences.

The Fahmy case was open and shut, according to Canadian Journalists For Free Expression, but the Harper administration treated it like some unapproachable gray area involving complex politicking. This only adds to the Tories’ track record of bizarrely ideological foreign policy.

Steven Zhou is a Toronto-based journalist and editor. He tweets at @stevenzzhou.

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HISTORY

A 20th century retrospective provides hints to our future

Mike Donachie
Metro | Canada

"It seemed necessary."

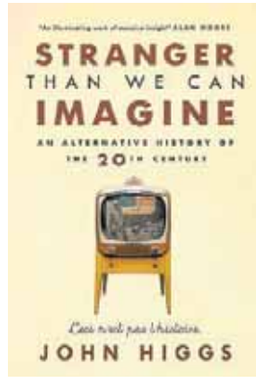
Ask John Higgs why he took some of the most mind-bending concepts of 100 years and shaped them into a retelling of the 20th century, and that's the reply.

Higgs is the writer behind Stranger Than We Can Imagine: An Alternative History of the 20th Century. Rarely have so many big ideas been crammed into one book. It's an ambitious project.

Higgs, who's from Brighton, England, has created a roadmap of the cultural and technological advances that brought us to the modern world.

"The purpose of this is to make sense of now," explains Higgs over coffee during a visit to Toronto.

"The 20th century is obviously the century we know most about. It shouldn't be strange to us. But the narrative we all know — the Second World War, Hiroshima, the Cold War, the Berlin Wall — that's not how it should be told.



"For some reason, that doesn't seem to lead into the world we now know, with tsunamis of information."

The difference between the 20th century and the 19th, Higgs suggests, is that 19th-century discoveries are easier to understand. Great feats of physical engineering or medical breakthroughs are impressive and accessible for an ordinary person.

> **Getting your head around the past 100 years will change how the modern world appears to you.**
> John Higgs

The greatest ideas of the 20th century are more challenging, he argues. It's "off-putting, bewildering and slightly inhuman" to try to grasp ideas like quantum mechanics.

Higgs decided to explain those huge concepts, and link them in the story of a century.

"It's the most radical ideas that make no sense at all at the time," Higgs says. "They were the ideas that were on the edge, but they all seemed to be pointing in the same direction. When you tie them all together they make sense together."

And Higgs admits he tried to avoid mentioning politicians.

"Politicians don't invent the Internet," he says.

"They don't change our society. They just sit at the top and take the credit."

Stranger Than We Can Imagine begins with relativity, then explains modern art, individualism, nihilism, the space race, chaos theory and more. It's brain-bursting stuff, but worth the effort.

But the real purpose of tracking a century of ideas was to look at what's coming in the 21st century.

Spoiler: Higgs thinks we're looking at a bright future because of changes in how we see ourselves, and that's all rooted in those big, 20th-century ideas.

"Getting your head around the past 100 years will change how the modern world appears to you," he smiles.

"You will see it with different eyes."

Who won the space race? In his book, John Higgs says it was the Soviets. But the U.S., despite being left behind for years, went on to win the cultural battle by landing men on the Moon. ISTOCK

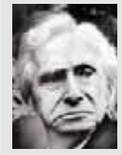
PERSONALITIES

Cast of characters

John Higgs avoided mentioning politicians in his history book, but does talk about some of the 20th century's most fascinating individuals, including:

Igor Stravinsky, composer

James Joyce, writer



Bertrand Russell, academic

Aleister Crowley, occultist

Norton I, 'Emperor of the United States'

Gene Rodenberry, creator of Star Trek

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THE QUESTION FACING ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT IS, WHO PAYS FOR IT?

Government charges and fees amount to one-fifth the cost of a new home on average across the GTA, according to a study done by Altus Group for BILD. DICK LOEK/TORONTO STAR

We all take infrastructure for granted—until something goes wrong. Remember the infamous "blackout" of August 2003, when most of Ontario and the northeastern United States were plunged into darkness? The power outage was caused by a deteriorating grid that buckled under the pressure of increased demand.

More recently, in July 2013, the worst flash flood in Toronto's history dumped 126 millimetres of rain on Canada's largest city, cutting power to hundreds of thousands of homes, halting subway and GO Train service, flooding roads, and causing over-loaded pipes to back-up into people's basements.

Both are harrowing examples of circumstances where aging and under-funded infrastructure couldn't keep up and Toronto, the nation's economic powerhouse, was all but shut down as a result.

> "The small amount that goes toward the immense challenge of tackling our nation's infrastructure deficit is not enough, especially in the GTA as it continues to grow."
>
> Bryan Tuckey, president and CEO, BILD

"Infrastructure enables our cities to function, yet you don't think about it until there's a problem," says Giovanni Cautillo, executive director of both the Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association and the Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors' Association. "When things are working fine everyone takes infrastructure for granted."

Infrastructure like the kind Cautillo and his members deal with on a daily basis—the pipes that bring us fresh clean water and take away the dirty stuff—is not something we notice, even though it's fundamental to our daily lives.

The same could be said of the roads that move people and goods, the transit we take to work, the bridges that connect our communities, and the electricity that keeps the lights on. All of it is infrastructure and it is also necessary for the development of new communities and to support growth, and it is essential to the economic prosperity of our city, region and nation.

However, we have a problem with infrastructure, a big problem that no one can agree how to fix. Infrastructure is expensive and not only do we need more of it to meet the demands of our growing cities we also have a serious infrastructure deficit. Much of our existing infrastructure is old and nearing the end of its useful life.

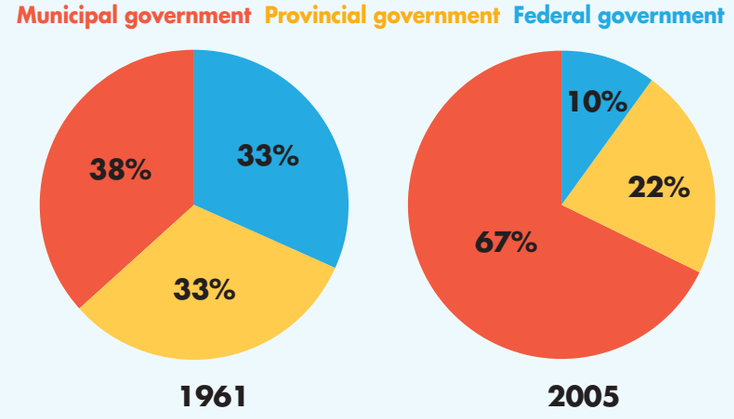
Canada's municipal infrastructure deficit is estimated at more than $123 billion, according to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities which represents more than 2,000 municipalities.

At the provincial level, an estimated $5.1 billion is required just to replace Ontario's aging infrastructure, according to a recent study of 93 municipalities by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Today much of our infrastructure is funded and put into place through the development

SHARE OF INFRASTRUCTURE RESPONSIBILITY

Over four decades, amid soaring health care and education costs, local governments have been saddled with supporting 67 per cent of infrastructure costs



* source: Statistics Canada

On Aug. 14, 2003, most of Ontario and the northeastern U.S. were plunged into darkness when a deteriorating grid buckled under the pressure of increased demand and caused a major power outage. VINCE TALOTTA/TORONTO STAR

Another Toronto disaster, this one on July 8, 2013, dumped 126 millimetres of rain in Toronto, flooding roads, halting subway and GO Train service and causing over-loaded pipes to back up into people's basements. VINCE TALOTTA/TORONTO STAR

process as part of building new communities.

There's also been a lack of funding support at the federal level, with just $5 billion a year currently earmarked for the entire country. The scarcity of funding is more acute in the GTA, which is growing by up to 100,000 people and 50,000 jobs annually.

"The small amount that goes toward the immense challenge of tackling our nation's infrastructure deficit is not enough, especially in the GTA as it continues to grow," says Bryan Tuckey, president and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association.

> "Infrastructure enables our cities to function, yet you don't think about it until there's a problem."
>
> Giovanni Cautillo, executive director, Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association

PARIS GREEN CREATIVE

"We need more pipes in the ground, roads for moving goods and people and transit to provide an alternative transportation method that eases congestion. Continued prosperity in the GTA depends on it."

Both the federal and provincial governments need to invest to ensure communities have stable, long-term and predictable funding for municipal infrastructure, Tuckey added.

The federal government used to invest in infrastructure. It provided more money to the provinces for infrastructure, which was in turn funnelled by the provinces to municipalities. But since the 1960s, there's been a dramatic shift in responsibility.

Back then, the federal, provincial and local governments each owned a third of their infrastructure assets (see "Share of Infrastructure Responsibility," right). By 2005, amid soaring health care and education costs, local governments were saddled with supporting 67 per cent of assets.

"There has to be more assistance from the federal government," agrees Cautillo. "Municipalities shouldn't have to shoulder the burden of paying for the infrastructure all on their own. Everyone in the country benefits when urban centres like the GTA flourish."

To close the infrastructure funding gap, local governments have introduced significant increases in development charges and other fees over the last decade.

These are taxes on new development, ultimately paid for by new homebuyers. A study done by Altus Group for BILD several years ago shows government charges and fees amount to one-fifth the cost of a new home on average across the GTA.

Roads and highways — part of our city's infrastructure — are fundamental to our daily lives, support growth and are essential to the economic prosperity of our city, region and nation. FILE PHOTO/TORONTO STAR

"It is unreasonable and unfair to put the cost of infrastructure on the backs of the new homebuyers when it really benefits all of us," says Tuckey. "We agree with the principle that growth should pay for growth, but the new homebuyer and employer are already paying more than their fair share."

BILD bildblogs.ca @bildgta

DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSIT: BETTER TOGETHER

TRANSIT CONSIDERED KEY TO CREATING 'QUALITY, COMPLETE, INVESTMENT-READY COMMUNITIES'

Developer First Gulf, the commercial arm of BILD member Great Gulf, has grand designs to transform the former Lever Brothers factory site at 21 Don Roadway into a six-million square foot office-retail destination that will attract thousands of new jobs and be a catalyst for revitalization.

But Project 21, as it's known, hinges on the arrival of new and proposed transit and transportation lines to enable workers to get to those new jobs, and to bring people to shop and enjoy the destination.

First Gulf has high hopes the province, federal government and the city will come through with the required infrastructure funding to service the area with rapid transit, such as a subway or as part of Toronto Mayor John Tory's SmartTrack.

Project 21 will be a boon for the city's lower east side, bringing badly needed office and retail spaces, plus the jobs that come with them, to an area that's projected to see Toronto's highest residential population growth in the coming years.

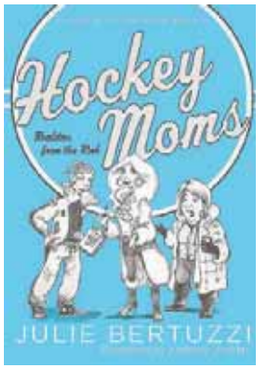
"Transit is the key to creating quality, complete, investment-ready communities," says BILD CEO Bryan Tuckey. "It's imperative that as we build the homes and businesses to accommodate new growth, we also ensure that the people that live and work in them can get to their jobs and schools in the quickest and most efficient way possible."

As much as development needs transit, transit also needs development to be successful.

"Rapid transit systems are a major investment of public resources," says Tuckey, "and to make that investment pay off we need to ensure they get used appropriately."

BOOK EXCERPT HOCKEY MOMS: REALITIES FROM THE RINK, BY JULIE BERTUZZI

‘She’s unafraid to insult any player’



Julie Bertuzzi, wife of NHL player Todd Bertuzzi, has taken the observations she’s gleaned from years of experience as a hockey mom to write 20 droll sketches of the fellow moms who lived at the rinks and in the minivan to support their kids in their hockey dreams.

In this exerpt, we meet Big Mouth Betty, one of the “20 women you already know.”

It only takes one listen, and after that you will instantly recognize Big Mouth Betty, anytime, anywhere. Her distinctive shriek can be heard the moment you enter the rink’s lobby. She is the mom who acts like she’s played a thousand games in the NHL, even though she has never actually worn a pair of skates. Or, if she has played the game, she likely gained all of her hockey knowledge during her old college days. She just doesn’t know that the game has changed dramatically since the 1990s. Perhaps she’s learned everything she knows in the lobbies of the great many arenas she has seen. She may even have taught herself by watching NHL network game highlights over breakfast. Whatever odd place is the source of her hockey wisdom, she’s certainly not shy in telling you all about it. She takes over most conversations, and she is always right when it comes to the game of hockey. There’s no point even trying to talk hockey with Big Mouth Betty because you will never be right — unless, that is, she agrees with you.

This Hockey Mom always stands with the same circle: either with the ladies who are used to her or with her own children, who have no choice but to hang out with her at the rink. Sometimes you will see her with that one nice mom who just accepts everybody, but most of the team parents try to avoid her. Even her own husband tries to get out of going to the games with her. Or he chooses to stand by the glass, on the opposite side of the rink, so he can’t hear her yakking.

One difference between Big Mouth Betty and other Hockey Moms is that most moms don’t want to be “that parent” constantly in the coach’s face expressing one or several opinions on every matter. But because Betty is such a hockey guru, the other parents quite often suggest to her that she take her beef about the team’s business to the coach. She can also be “loud” on email, sending out “reply alls” with her comments on the previous night’s game. These are a little easier to ignore.

Like the Drama Queen, this mom can be heard throughout the game. But unlike the Drama Queen, who’s busy waving her arms in the air, Big Mouth Betty keeps active by constantly colour commentating the play. At times she feels she really needs to help coach, after all. And this is no act. She truly can’t help herself. So she steps right into Coach Mom’s role and calls out the next line rotation or screams at her kid to get his head out of his ass so that he can see the play. Worse, she’s unafraid to insult any player on the ice: forward, defence, or goalie. She yells at refs, she shouts at linesmen, and she has been known to holler at other moms too. She gets especially fired up at dirty plays, so much so that other moms sometimes have to relocate to different seats in the middle of a period.

Quick tip ladies: always be the last to the bleachers. Let Big Mouth Betty get in first and stake out her area, and then you can find a different place to sit. And one last word of advice: limit this woman to one large coffee, as caffeine is the last thing she needs. God forbid she has a beer or a glass of red before a game.

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Costello finally writes that book

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Artist reflects on his father, prolific output

Alan Cross
For Metro Canada

Unfaithful Music & Disappearing Ink is more than a review of life lived in music; it's a love letter to Costello's father, who worked as a jazz singer for decades. GETTY IMAGES

"I was asked to write an autobiography when I was 24," says Elvis Costello, "and I said 'Can I get back to you when I've done something?'" Now at age 61—and ten years after he was approached again—he's finally published a memoir.

"There's a lot of stuff ahead," he tells Metro, "and if I had to carry all this memory around with me without any other account of it…I never kept a diary. All of this is what I remembered."

Unfaithful Music & Disappearing Ink is more than a review of life lived in music; it's a love letter to a father, a massive influence on his life. Elvis' dad worked as a jazz singer for decades. Before that, his granddad was a trumpeter with the White Star Line playing standards to passengers.

His father met his mother in a record store — "It's lovely. It's a beautiful thing!" he exclaims — so it's no surprise that Elvis was exposed to all kinds of music as a child: Dizzy Gillespie, Sinatra, the Beatles, Peggy Lee. If ever he challenges you to a game of musical trivia, politely take a pass and save yourself the embarrassment.

There are some very clever descriptions in the book. He recalls his New Wave period as "being tipped into a shoebox with all the other broken toys" featuring "anyone who played fast, spiteful songs in a narrow tie, rather than with the authentic voice and attire of punk outrage."

He's had more than his share of hits, but has always refused to be pigeonholed. Some in the industry say that he could have been much more commercially successful if he hadn't been so prolific.

"They're businessmen, not artists," counters Elvis, "But let me remind you of this: How many proper albums did the Beatles put out in 1965 and 1966? (Three: Help!, Rubber Soul and Revolver.) That's what I grew up with."

Elvis lives to make all kinds of music: country, ballet scores, operas, co-productions with Burt Bacharach, Allen Toussaint and even Paul McCartney, sessions where McCartney good-naturedly accused him of "getting all the good lines."

He keeps plugging along but he also says he won't record new music now because his dad is gone and he was the sole audience about whom he cared.

The e-book comes with additional photos and there's a companion soundtrack CD featuring many of the songs discussed in the book.

"I see now that I was lucky to work in the record business during that brief interlude between the time when they bought your songs outright for 50 bucks or the keys to a Cadillac, and now, when everything is supposed to be free."

Yes, he's been lucky. And so have we.

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A room with a view

Tech Mogul Zach Klein decided to build a cabin in the woods in upstate New York. He tapped into a community hungry to get away from city life. His book Cabin Porn is less about the exterior envelope, and more about finding your inner Walden Pond.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Linescio, Switzerland

A 200-year-old stacked stone home. Outside it is ancient and enduring, an untouched ruin. Inside, it is a tribute to Mies van der Rohe, a sculpture of poured concrete. It is the kind of building that author Zach Klein would call "Made by hand, but fashioned with imagination." Twenty-first century imagination. Reconstructed in 2011 it is impossible cool, a battered Jaguar E-type with the beating heart of a Tesla.

30 feet in the air

Ethan Schulussler has built his elevated cabin with thoughts of flight. The Sandpoint, Idaho, structure is both whimsical and practical, sporting a pedal-powered bicycle elevator and a suspension walkway. "I did no research whatsoever," he says of his design. The lack of inquiry paid off. The clean-lined structure composed of western larch, is a modernist miracle, a dream abode in the sky. Just add balloons.

Location, Location, Location

Real estate agents will tell you it's all about the view. So have we got a looker for you. Three Fingers Mountain Lookout in Washington takes you far above the clouds. It is a slice of heaven that few people will experience, unless you happen to have the mountain climbing skills of a Billy goat.

The City Cabin

This cabin on Bell Avenue in Chicago is admittedly, more tree house than living quarters. But talk about possibility. Infill and lane housing are touted as the solution to intense urbanization. And in some areas like Toronto, where the average detached home is now a million dollars, some enterprising realtor will list this as the perfect in-law suite.

Huon Valley, Tasmania

Ultimately, this cabin is about functionality. The jutting solar panels provide electricity. It isn't pretty, but it will get you through the winter. The foundation of a good cabin? Start with the cast iron wood burning stove. Life will fall into place.

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A picture is worth a thousand words

HUMANS OF NEW YORK

Photographer Brandon Stanton is still pulling heart strings

In the first two years of photographing people on the streets of New York City, Brandon Stanton mostly allowed the powerful images to speak for themselves.

"A lot of the time, the very first question out of my mouth is: 'What is your biggest challenge right now?'" said Stanton.

"I find that if you just ask, people are willing to share, because I think there's a validation of sharing your story."

Stanton shares his slice-of-life snapshots alongside humorous and heartwrenching anecdotes on his popular blog Humans of New York.

He's amassed a sizable social media following with a combined total of more than 19 million followers on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and has even inspired imitators of the format in Toronto, Dublin and Mumbai.

In Humans of New York: Stories (St. Martin's Press), Stanton, 31, shares a few of his favourites as well as newer entries from his rapidly expanding catalogue. Whether it's a brief quote or a longer story, the text adds poignancy and greater insight into the individual before the lens.

In one photo, a man's hand is seen resting atop a Braille-embossed page.

"I hated God for a long time," reads the accompanying caption. In another, a young man appears to use sign language to communicate with a young girl. The text reads: "I worry that one day she'll get separated from me, and nobody will understand she's deaf."

Stanton has broadened the blog beyond the Big Apple with visits to Pakistan and Iran. He also recently teamed with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to speak with displaced people in Croatia, Austria and Greece.

"All of the stories were sad, but it seems like there would be one every single day that completely punched me in the stomach and I was just carrying it around with me all day long," said Stanton.

"You know that you're leaving and there's not necessarily a solution for them, and you're leaving them behind in the same situation that you found them — and that is very tough."

The former bond trader turned photographer said he's able to support himself from speeches and book sales. But through the blog's popularity, he's been able to generate attention and funds for notable causes — including his photo subjects.

In January, Stanton met a teen boy named Vidal who cited his principal, Nadia Lopez, as his greatest influence. Stanton documented the students and educators at the school, and launched a crowdfunding campaign to help send them to Harvard for a visit.

More than $1 million US was raised, with money also set aside for a scholarship fund. The campaign even caught the attention of the White House. Vidal, Lopez and Stanton met U.S. President Barack Obama, who is also featured in the new book speaking about his greatest influence.

Both Obama and current presidential contender Hillary Clinton have also commented on HONY's Facebook page.

In Clinton's case, she responded to a post about a young boy afraid for his future and worried people won't like him because he is gay.

"Prediction from a grown-up: Your future is going to be amazing," Clinton wrote. "You will surprise yourself with what you're capable of and the incredible things you go on to do. Find the people who love and believe in you — there will be lots of them."

Stanton said it's exciting to see the high-profile response to his blog, but he tries to stay grounded. "The bigger it gets and the more exciting things happen ... the more I try to narrow my focus for my own sanity and just focus on going out there every single day and having conversations with strangers."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stanton says a lot of the time the first thing he asks his subjects is "what is your biggest challenge right now?" HANDOUT, THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **All of the stories were sad, but it seems like there would be one every single day that completely punched me in the stomach**
>
> HONY's Brandon Stanton on taking photos and gathering stories from refugees

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Marlon James wins the Booker Prize

VIOLENT AND FUNNY

Unanimous choice not a book you'd give to your mom

Booker Prize winner Marlon James. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marlon James became the first Jamaican winner of the prestigious Booker Prize for fiction Tuesday with a vivid, violent, exuberant and expletive-laden novel based on the attempted assassination of Bob Marley.

Michael Wood, chairman of the judging panel, said A Brief History of Seven Killings was "the most exciting book on the list" and a novel full of the "sheer pleasure" of language. He said it had been the unanimous choice of the five judges.

James was awarded the $77,000 prize during a black-tie dinner in London. The 44-year-old author said he almost gave up writing more than a decade ago when his first novel, John Crow's Devil, was rejected by 70 publishers. He said winning the Booker Prize was "surreal," and joked that he would spend the prize money on a tailor-made suit or "every William Faulkner novel in hardcover."

He said he hoped his victory would bring "more attention to what's coming out of Jamaica and the Caribbean, because I think there are some brand-new voices coming out who are exploring contemporary society, who are exploring what's beyond politics, what's beyond colonialism."

A Brief History of Seven Killings charts political violence in Jamaica and the spread of crack cocaine in the U.S., and hinges on a 1976 attempt on the life of reggae superstar Marley.

Critics have compared the novel to the stream-of-consciousness novels of William Faulkner and the hyper-violent movies of Quentin Tarantino. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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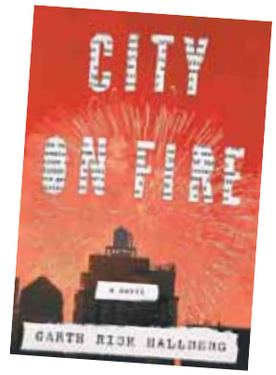
Burning issues of 1970s New York City

INTERVIEW

Contemporary concerns dramatized in city on the brink

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Journalist and author Garth Risk Hallberg's debut novel started a bidding war that saw him bag a reported $2-million advance. HANDOUT



On Tuesday night, the incomparable Patti Smith regaled a sold-out crowd at Toronto's Design Exchange with personal stories from her new memoir, M Train.

Smith, the poetically minded matriarch of New York's 1970s punk scene, is synonymous with the gritty toughness of that era, so it comes as no surprise that her music makes an appearance in Garth Risk Hallberg's sprawling 944-page debut novel City On Fire.

Like Smith, 36-year-old Hallberg came to New York to be among like-minded artists and writers. In 2003, while on a bus heading into the city, listening to Billy Joel's ode to the Big Apple, Miami 2017, he had a vision for his novel.

"I knew this was the book I have to write," he says.

For the next 10 years during off-hours from his day job as a journalist, Hallberg created the world that would become City on Fire, an epic story that should resonate with those who actually hung out at CBGB and those who show their affinity by wearing vintage Ramones t-shirts.

Mostly set in 1977 prior to New York's notorious blackout and subsequent violence, City on Fire revolves around the unsolved murder of an East Village teenager named Sam. The novel quickly introduces a large cast of characters, all of whom are tangibly connected, but whose personal dreams and socio-economic, political and sexual identities offer original perspectives on life in the city.

Since news of Hallberg's novel grabbed attention for its publisher bidding war (Doubleday Canada publishes it here) and a staggering reported $2-million advance, City of Fire has been scrutinized by some media, suggesting its setting represents misplaced nostalgia for a time when drugs, poverty and crime reigned. But Hallberg says nostalgia is exactly what he was trying to avoid, "at least so far as it involves the flattening or sentimentalizing of the past," he says.

While Hallberg "adores" books like the Hillary Mantel's Thomas Cromwell tome Wolf Hall, he didn't set out to write a historical novel, either. What he found in the squalor of 1970s New York was "a place where I could dramatize the burning issues that still affect us years later: class, sexuality, race, questions of humanity and self-expression," he says. "These are all very contemporary concerns."

As he was writing the first draft and before any fact-checking, Hallberg realized he was already intuitively aware of so much of the story's ethos. Growing up in North Carolina, he recalls listening as a small child to political conversations among the grown-ups. By the time he was 17, he had developed a group of friends five hours away in Washington, D.C., who introduced him to underground zine culture. Originally he planned to dedicate a chapter in the book to Sam's diary, but instead, readers get inside her thoughts via a scrappy cut-and-pasted zine. Hallberg says, "Sam is so much me. Her voice is mine."

And then there's the music, which plays like an undercurrent throughout the book. All the touchstones, like Smith, are there, but Hallberg, who performed in a band and boasts 18,000 songs on his iPod, captures that timeless youthful exhilaration of watching favourite bands in sweaty clubs, unsure of how the night is going to end. Hallberg says, "That's the world where I grew up."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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Trading tales of Rwanda now and then

THE NEW HEART OF AFRICA

Will Ferguson recalls road trip at centre of his new book

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Reading Will Ferguson's recent book, Road Trip Rwanda, is almost exactly like being in Rwanda. I know — I lived there for 25 years before coming to Canada.

From the seriousness of law enforcers to the mundane activities and the craziness of an entire nation about soccer, the Giller Prize-winning author managed to beautifully capture it all in a 350-page memoir that hit bookshelves early this month.

So when I recently sat down with him and his friend and travel guide Jean Claude Munyezamu — a Rwandan native currently living in Calgary, the man at the origin of the trip — it felt like three old friends talking about a neighbourhood they knew only too well, even though Ferguson had only spent three weeks in Rwanda.

Ferguson: My purpose for writing this book was to convey to western people that Rwanda has been enormously affected by the genocide. But Rwanda is not the genocide; just the same way the Jewish culture is not the Holocaust. For most people it's as if Rwanda stopped in 1994. I hope this book shows that there's more to Rwanda than just the genocide. People are living their lives, falling in and out of love, worried about their education. It was important for me to make that clear.

And you managed to do that by mixing humour, jokes and serious observations on how the country's people are not just coping but thriving, right?

Ferguson: Yeah. I think road trips are inherently fun, even when your travel buddy doesn't drink beer!

Munyezamu: He tried many times to convince me to join him for a drink. I have never had a drop of alcohol in my life.

You should have taken me! All jokes aside though, in the book you talk about visiting genocide memorials, offering rides to the people on the streets and seeing the gorillas. What's one thing that surprised you the most?

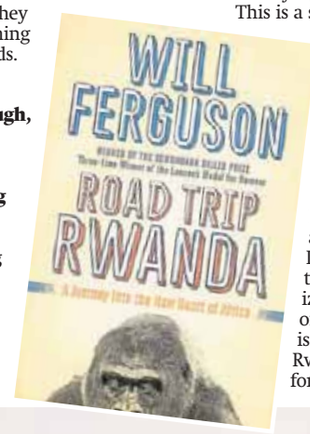
Ferguson: One of the most amazing things for me was seeing how Rwandan women could balance anything on their heads. I watched them for three weeks and never saw a thing falling off. And they're doing this walking up and down on steep hills. They carry everything on their heads.

It's not just women though, because I remember growing up and carrying everything on my head and walking miles and miles on every trip. Rwandans live on foot, man!

Ferguson: And there are people everywhere too. You know, I didn't even make an attempt to drive when we were there. There are just so many people on the roads, highways and small roads. Every street is full of people, and they don't fear crossing. I couldn't believe it. They say Rwanda is the most densely populated country in Africa, but that statistic is misleading. It makes you think of Rwanda as Mumbai, but it's not. The country is so beautiful with hills, forests and rivers. But Rwandans use the roads like hallways.

I had the opposite reaction when I got here (Toronto) for the first time. I think my first question driving in from Pearson airport was: "Where are the people?" Anyway, tell me why Rwanda is a trip worth taking.

Ferguson: First of all, it's beautiful. People are warm-hearted, it's safe, it's such a small country and there's so much variety. You never waste your time in Rwanda. And for me the most important and powerful place we visited is at Nyange Memorial. This is a school where children refused to separate themselves according to their ethnic groups, and the militia killed them altogether. It's only there that I realized the cycle of violence is broken in Rwanda forever.



Author Will Ferguson's buddy Jean-Claude Munyezamu stands in front of the ruins of his brother's home in Rundu village. It was destroyed during the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda. CONTRIBUTED

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Just for laughs Live

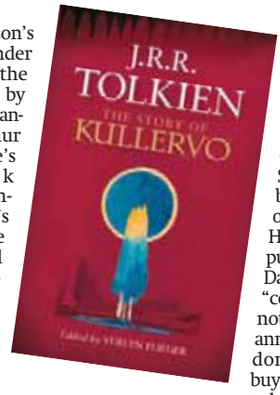
Fave author dies to publish another day

ARCHIVAL TEXTS

A century later, J.R.R. Tolkien's unfinished tale to be published

Move over, Jonathan Franzen; shuffle on, Salman Rushdie — the biggest literary stars of 2015 are ex-authors. So far, the late Dr. Seuss's Which Pet Should I Get? (penned around 1960), the James Bond novel Trigger Mortis (written by Anthony Horowitz but incorporating unpublished dialogue and description by Ian Fleming from the early '60s), and Harper Lee's Go Set a Watchman (sitting in a safe-deposit box since 1957) have all haunted bestseller lists. J.R.R. Tolkien may be next: his The Story of Kullervo is being published some 100 years after he wrote the manuscript.

The mining of vaults in search of what Seuss's website calls "literary buried treasure" is picking up pace. Continuation novels that spin out the further adventures of Stieg Larsson's Lisbeth Salander (The Girl in the Spider's Web by David Lagercrantz), and Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes (Bonnie Macbird's Art in the Blood as well as Kareem Abdul Jabbar's Mycroft) find publishers moving forward by looking back.



At a time when there are more books (and ebooks) available now than ever before, authors' brands which survive long after their pens have dried up are invaluable.

Noah Genner, President and CEO of Booknet Canada, says that, when surveys ask why consumers buy books, "Almost always, the number one or number two reason is the author.

Sure Tolkien isn't around to big up his tomes on Twitter, but dead authors' fans can pick up the slack. Devoted readers helped The Story of Kullervo become big news online despite what HarperCollins' UK publisher of estates, David Brawn, calls a "conscious decision not to overegg" the announcement. "We don't want people buying these (books) and going, 'Oh, but this isn't a sequel to The Hobbit!'"

Kullervo is an unfinished manuscript adapting a story from Finnish folklore over a mere 36 pages; the climactic scenes of violence exist only in a rushed synopsis of the ending drawn from Tolkien's notes. The book pads out the story with a surfeit of lectures and endnotes worthy of the interminable extras on The Lord of the Rings DVDs.

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Maya Krishna Rao is one of 41 writers who have returned the awards they received from India's prestigious literary academy in protest of what they say is a growing right-wing Hindu nationalism in India under the current government.
SAURABH DAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dozens return India's highest literary award

DISSENT

Writers protest growing sense of intolerance in country

Many in India's literary community are disgusted.

Dozens of writers say every day brings more evidence of intolerance and bigotry going mainstream — a man lynched allegedly for eating beef, an atheist critic of Hindu idol worship gunned down — all met by a deafening silence from the government.

As of Wednesday, 41 novelists, essayists, playwrights and poets had returned the awards they received from India's prestigious literary academy to protest what they call a growing climate of intolerance under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

The writers are also angry that India's Sahitya Akademi, or National Academy of Letters, has said little about the murder of the well-known rationalist Malleshappa Kalburgi, an award-winning Kannada-language writer, gunned down in August for his writings against superstition and false beliefs.

The government has dismissed the writers' protests, questioning their motives and accusing them of being politically motivated.

"If they say they are unable to write, let them stop writing," culture minister Mahesh Sharma told reporters.

The writers say they cannot remain mute spectators to numerous incidents of communal violence, attacks on intellectuals and increasing curbs on free speech.

"It's become a question of an individual's right to speak, to think, to write, to eat, to dress, to debate," said Maya Krishna Rao, a playwright and theatre actress, who returned her award to the academy this week.

When Modi won a landslide victory in May 2014, many voiced fears of right-wing Hindu nationalism leading to communal violence and religious intolerance. Modi, who had spent years dodging allegations of failing to stop riots in Gujarat state in which around 1,000 Muslims died, assured the nation that he was prime minister for all and would work for everyone.

> **If they say they are unable to write, let them stop writing.**
> Culture minister Mahesh Sharma, in dismissing the protest

But the last year has seen a rising crescendo of violence by Hindu fringe groups, trying to force a regressive Hindu nationalism on all, causing fear among India's minority communities.

State governments ruled by the BJP have cracked down on cow slaughter, and even buffalo meat, a key source of protein for poor Muslims and lower caste Hindus, has become scarce. The ban on cow slaughter has given rise to Hindu vigilante groups and mob violence has risen.

Last month a Muslim man was lynched in northern India over false rumours that his family had eaten beef for dinner.

On Wednesday, in response to persistent demands that the prime minister break his silence on the lynching, Modi said the mob killing was "sad and undesirable," but added that his government could not be blamed as the local administration was responsible for the state.

Last week, well-known writer Nayantara Sahgal returned her academy award, triggering the return of awards by other writers. Sahgal, a niece of India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, is known as a fiercely independent political writer who had crossed swords with her cousin and another former prime minister, Indira Gandhi, when she imposed a state of emergency in India in the mid-'70s.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Rowell brings fan-fic alive

CARRY ON

YA author tackles her first full-on fantasy novel

Emily Laurence
Metro | New York

Readers of all ages have devoured Rainbow Rowell's past books, including Eleanor & Park, but instead of sticking to what works, Rowell tested herself by experimenting with a whole new genre: fantasy. Her latest book, Carry On is about a teen named Simon (a character from her book Fangirl) who has been chosen to fight a battle he seems ill-prepared to fight. And this comes with all the other usual teen stuff, like breakups. Rowell gives us more scoop here:

What sparked the idea to give Simon Snow from Fangirl his own book?
When I started writing Fangirl, writing the Simon Snow bit was a huge experiment for me since it was science-fiction or fan-fiction, but I enjoyed writing it. I thought it would be fun to actually write these characters and not just through the lens of other characters. At first, I thought it was going to be a short story, but when I started writing, I realized it was more than just a romance. I really wanted to create this whole world Simon lived in.

Many people who read your books have created fan-fiction based on it. Did fan-fiction change the way you wrote at all?
I don't look at any fan-fiction at all for that reason. If I'm still working on something, I don't want someone to get in my head. But I do think it's pretty cool and flattering that people are writing fan-fiction based on my books.

Why do you think YA is popular with adults as well as teens?
The teen years are an incredibly popular time in our lives and is a vital part of shaping our personalities. It's when you make big decisions about your friendships and relationships with your parents. But it also goes by really quickly and everything is changing so fast that you don't have time to process it. So it seems natural to me that when you're 25, 35 or 45 to want to go back and think about it.

Is there anything in Carry On that you hope helps readers learn something new about themselves?
When I was writing it, I started thinking about how we sort of assign the next generation [a list] of things they need to do. And when you do that, you're telling them how they have to fit into the world and they're being raised to fight someone else's wars. Simon didn't have a choice in [his] battle. He didn't have a choice in his enemies.

> **I realized it was more than just a romance. I really wanted to create this whole world Simon lived in**
> Rainbow Rowell

Rainbow Rowell says if your fantasy world characters are strong enough you can take readers anywhere. CONTRIBUTED

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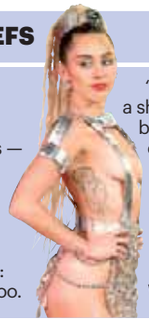


Miley plans to perform nude

Want to see Miley Cyrus — and the Flaming Lips — perform totally naked? Well, first off that's an oddly specific fantasy. And secondly, you're in luck! But there's a catch: You have to be naked, too.

"(Cyrus) is planning a show where her, the band (us) and the audience are all completely naked with milk — well, white stuff that looks like milk — being spewed everywhere," Flaming Lips ringleader Wayne Coyne spilled on Instagram. "It's a video (in the works) for (Miley and Her Dead Pets) song The Milky Milky Milk." NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

Klum talks single mom status

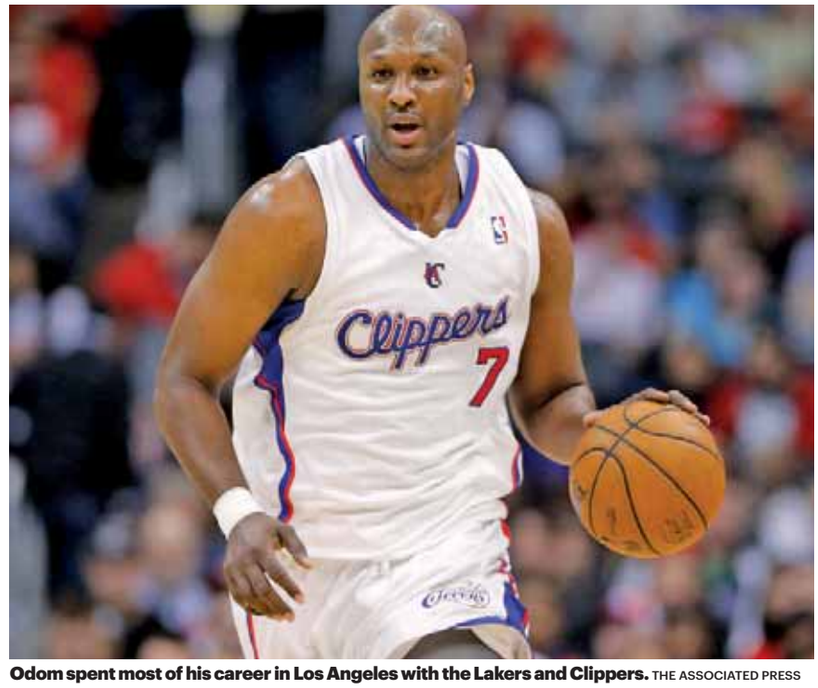
Heidi Klum is opening up about life as a single mom some four years after her divorce from Seal, and things aren't really that different.

"Obviously things have changed, but they haven't changed drastically," she tells Redbook. "He was never your typical dad who left for work in the morning with his briefcase and would be home by dinnertime every night. He travelled a lot. The kids knew it was part of his job. I'm a mom and a dad at the same time."

On men in general: "Women are capable of juggling a lot of balls — we do things that guys just cannot do. Men typically can juggle only one ball," she jokes. "A lot of them have a very hard time just trying to figure out what to do with that one ball. And often they want us to hold that one, too!"

I'm just going to leave it at that. NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

Lamar Odom on life support



Odom spent most of his career in Los Angeles with the Lakers and Clippers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAGEDY

After life a of struggle, Odom fights for his life

Lamar Odom, the NBA star and reality TV personality embraced by teammates and fans for his humble approach to fame, was on life support Wednesday, his estranged wife Khloe Kardashian by his side. Odom was found unresponsive after four days in a brothel, and authorities sought a warrant for blood evidence of drugs.

Hospital officials would not comment on the condition of the 35-year-old former Los Angeles Laker, who was found face down at Nevada's Love Ranch Tuesday afternoon, brothel owner Dennis Hof said.

Odom started "throwing up all kinds of stuff" after a 911 operator told brothel workers to turn him on his side, Hof said in a phone interview. Odom "spent time socializing with some of my girls," but wasn't seen taking any illegal drugs, Hof said.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who visited him in the hospital Wednesday, said Odom was on life support and that doctors believe he is recovering after being totally unresponsive the day before.

"Apparently from what the doctor said, he was much better off today than yesterday. He at least has some responsiveness now," Jackson said.

"We're just holding hands and hoping he can bounce back," Jackson added.

Investigators have sought a warrant to obtain a blood sample to determine if Odom suffered a drug or alcohol overdose, Nye County, Nev., Sheriff Sharon Wehrly said.

Odom spent most of his 14-year NBA career in Los Angeles with the Lakers and Clippers, becoming a fan favourite and beloved teammate. Then he took fame even farther, marrying into the Kardashian clan.

His whirlwind romance with Khloe Kardashian and their huge 2009 wedding was taped for the E! network, and Odom appeared on nearly two dozen episodes of Keeping Up with the Kardashians. He also appeared on Kourtney & Kim Take Miami, and his marriage was chronicled on the Khloe & Lamar show in 2011 and 2012.

Odom seemed to get loving attention from the Kardashians. Khloe would call him Lam-Lam and worry openly about him. Even after they split up in 2013, cameras recorded her calling him and checking on his welfare.

But as his life became a public spectacle, his basketball career faded. He was heartbroken in December 2011 when the Lakers attempted to trade him to New Orleans in a multiplayer trade for Chris Paul. He eventually went to Dallas, and was out of the NBA just two years later.

Odom's behaviour increasingly worried family and friends. He pleaded no contest to drunk-driving after an arrest in August 2013. Kardashian filed for divorce four months later and has been dating Houston Rockets star James Harden. The divorce has not yet received final approval from a judge.

Odom signed with the New York Knicks in April 2014, but never played. Rumours of drug use followed; Odom was photographed repeatedly on Skid Row.

When cameras caught up with him on a sidewalk in August, Odom blamed the media for his downfall.

"Ya'll have discredited me, beat me down, took my confidence, took everything away from me. You will not do it again," Odom told TMZ in an interview. "To everybody that I know and that supports me, I'm sorry but it's just it. The dog has to bite back." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro HOME

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Fall signals major launches

CONDO TRENDS

From Dundas to waterfront, a roundup of new projects

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

This year has been particularly active for the fall condominium season, with an estimated 31 new projects being launched, fuelling Toronto's unprecedented condominium building boom.

The Canada-wide condo search website BuzzBuzzHome recently conducted a market snapshot of the biggest condo developments starting construction and launching this season. According to their findings, the five biggest developments "entering the construction phase will house a combined total of 2,569 units once they're complete. That works out to an impressive 78 per cent of the 3,288 units that the 10 condo developments beginning construction in Toronto this season will ultimately house." After scouring a few lists of projects on the go, here's my rundown of the most interesting developments:

NEW WAY TO BUY

BuzzBuzzHome has just announced plans to launch a "buy it now" button on their website. For the first time ever, Canadians will actually be able to buy a condo online with a credit card, not unlike an eBay transaction.

Dundas Square Gardens

The Dundas Square Gardens condominiums held their groundbreaking event last week, marking a new transformation of the Jarvis and Dundas neighborhood. Easton's Group Chairman and CEO Steve Gupta and COO Reetu Gupta hosted dignitaries and leaders of Toronto's real estate industry at this milestone event to launch the two-tower condominium development.

ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Pier 27 tower

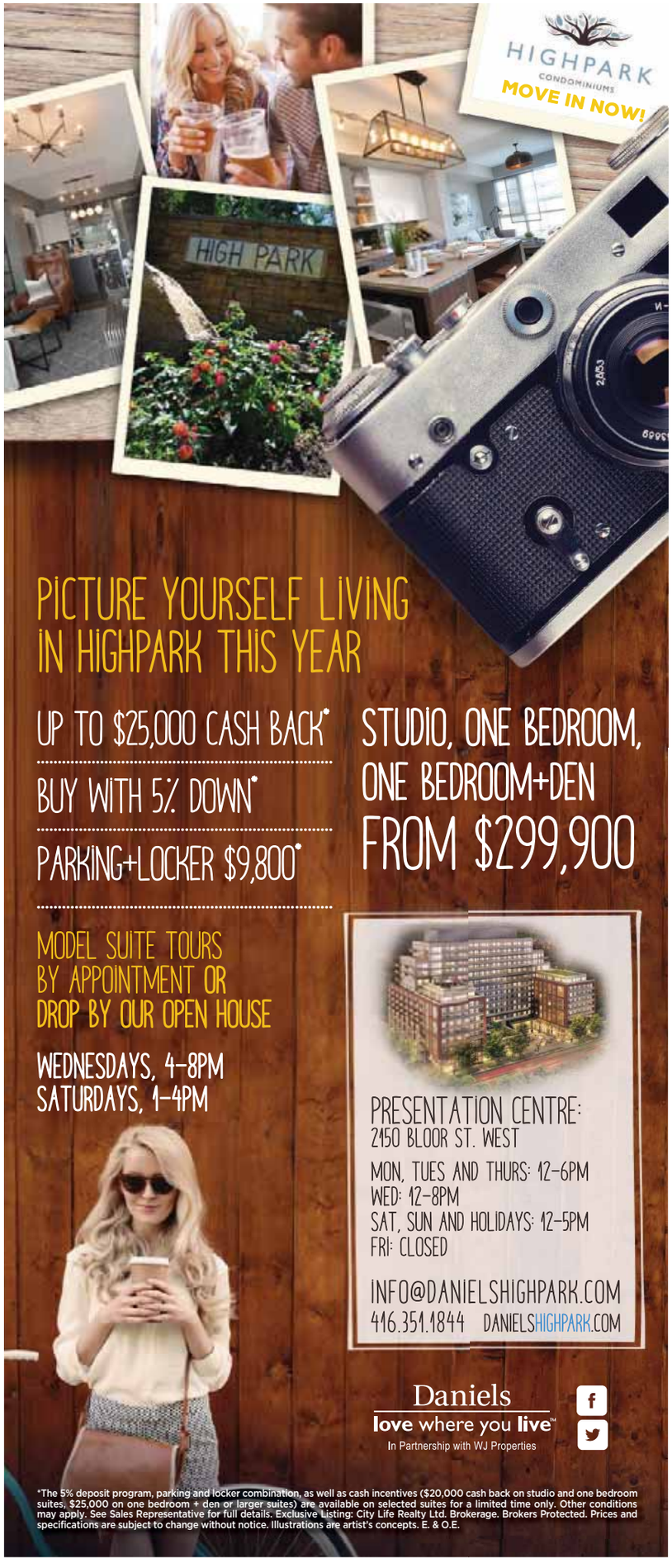
At yet another waterfront location is the Pier 27 tower by the Cityzen Development Group and Fernbrook Homes. The obliquely-shaped collection of buildings adds a bold, modernist statement to Queens Quay East at the foot of Yonge Street. Designed by architect Peter Clewes, the tower will rise 35 storeys, providing views of the water, the Toronto Islands and the city.

River City

The Urban Capital Property Group has just embarked on the third phase of their River City development in the West Don Lands. The company celebrated their official groundbreaking this week at the future construction site near the Don River Park, the newest addition to Toronto's waterfront community. Winner of BILD's best design award, River City is a LEED Gold community of more than 1,100 loft-style condominiums, family-friendly townhouses, and ground-floor retail.

Daniel's Waterfront

South of the West Don Lands is the Daniel's Waterfront — City of the Arts, a sprawling new mixed-use neighbourhood. Occupying the site of the former Guvernment nightclub, the development promises to be the gateway to Toronto's East Bayfront district. The company just announced this week an ambitious $3-million public art contribution for the site, in conjunction with Artscape and OCAD University.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Keep infrastructure in mind when voting

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

Infrastructure is essential to how our cities operate, allowing us to get clean water by turning a tap, flip a switch to turn on a light and flush a toilet to get rid of waste.

It's a part of our daily lives, but we don't really notice it until something goes wrong.

One example that comes to mind is the blackout of summer 2003. Ontarians were plunged into darkness when a deteriorating electrical grid buckled under the pressure of increased demand.

Another example occurred a decade later, in July 2013, when a deluge of rain caused a flash flood in Toronto cutting power, flooding roads, halting transit service and over-loading parts of our stormwater and sewer systems.

Both are scary examples of what happens when older infrastructure doesn't have the capacity to meet the modern demands of an ever-growing region and of climate change. This is a problem.

Canada has an infrastructure deficit of more than $123 billion, according to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Here in Ontario, more than $5.1 billion is required just to replace the province's aging infrastructure, a recent study by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario found.

The need is especially acute in the GTA. We need to upgrade and retrofit older infrastructure, but we also desperately need to add infrastructure to support the region's growth.

Much of the responsibility of funding infrastructure has fallen to municipalities. They are increasing taxes and fees related to new development to pay for infrastructure and it is new-home buyers who ultimately pay.

While growth should pay for growth, new-home buyers can't be expected to foot the bill for everyone. Since infrastructure is used by all of us, we all have a responsibility to invest and help pay for it.

We need a federal government that will make it an investment priority. So before you go to the polls on Monday to elect our next federal government, take the time to research where each party stands on funding infrastructure and make it a consideration when you cast your ballot.

$123B

Canada has an infrastructure deficit of more than $123 billion, according to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 ETOBICOKE

Open house: Several new condo suites will be shown at the Eleven Superior site on the Mimico waterfront. Check it out at 2398 Lake Shore Blvd. W., on Oct. 17 and 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: STANLEY BERNARDO, 905-275-9400

2 NORTH YORK

Preview event: The Briar Hill City Towns is holding a preview sales event. It's a new, mixed-use residential townhouse and commercial development. Head over to 2 Wingold Ave., in North York on Oct. 17 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call ahead to register for VIP access.

CONTACT: 416-661-4000, MADISONHOMES.CA

3 ETOBICOKE

Sales event: This weekend, Empire Communities will extend their Your Choice incentive event at the Eau Du Soleil condominiums, which allows purchasers to choose from several different incentive packages. See the sales centre at 2183 Lake Shore Blvd. W.

CONTACT: 416-503-3328, EAUDUSOLEILCONDOS.COM

LEGAL MATTERS

Not all Canadian home buyers are eligible for the HST rebate

Jeffrey Cowan
For Metro Canada

Q: I am in the process of purchasing a new condo and have done some reading on HST rebates on new housing. I am a Canadian citizen but presently I don't live in Canada. I am buying the property to rent out for now and potentially move into if I return to Canada.

My accountant says I might want to put the property into the name of my Canadian company but I understand I would then not be eligible for the rebate. How should I go about this?

A: In order to be eligible for the HST rebate that is offered by the Canada Revenue Agency, you have to be an individual who purchases a new property who is a resident of Canada for income tax purposes. If you live outside Canada and are not paying Canadian income tax you would not qualify. Purchasing your property using your Canadian company would also mean that you would not personally qualify for this rebate. Either way you will need to pay this rebate to the builder on closing.

The second criteria of purchasing for your primary residence would also not be met because you are living outside of Canada and cannot claim it as a primary residence.

Unfortunately, this is a rebate savings that you cannot obtain on any count.

CONTRIBUTED

Midrise part of Queen East's renaissance

Project overview

Streetcar Developments' Riverside Square promises to breathe new life into the area south of Queen Street near Broadview. The City Collection is a new midrise condominium, part of an ongoing renaissance taking place at the east gateway to Toronto's downtown core.

Building amenities

The condo will feature a rooftop infinity pool with greenscaped cabana terrace, as well as the addition of a new park, an expansive fitness centre, a party room and guest suites. The community will feature an onsite grocery store, retail, café and other commercial options.

Location and transit

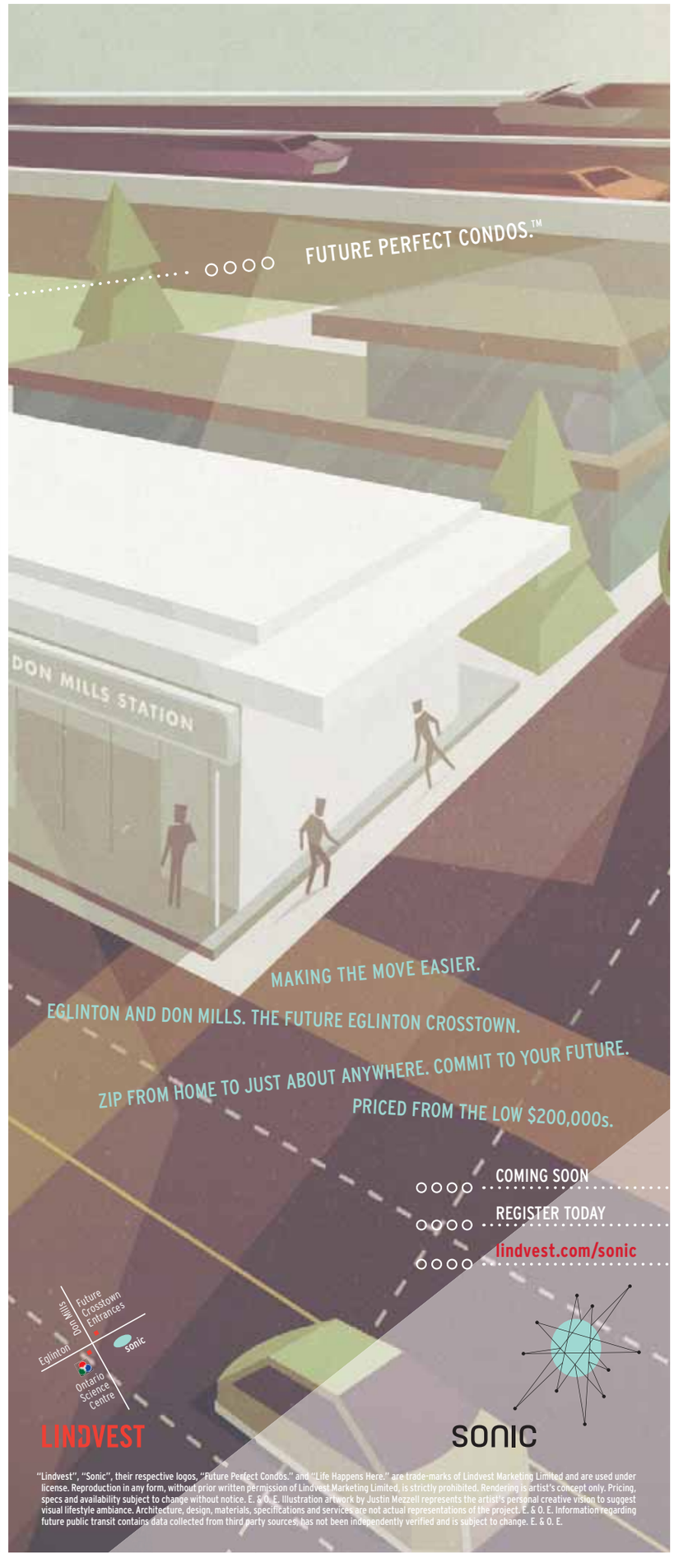
Overlooking the Riverside Bridge, the site offers direct access to the downtown within 10 minutes via the Queen Street streetcar. Situated next to the Don River, condo residents will enjoy speedy access to the Don Valley Parkway, and cyclists and hikers are close to the Lower Don Trails.

In the neighbourhood

A choice of cozy cafés, yoga studios, local boutiques and four-star dining options, like La Carnita, County General and Hey Meatball, are all within walking distance. There's also the historic Opera House and Streetcar's own Broadview Hotel, coming soon to the neighbourhood.

NEED TO KNOW

What: Riverside Square The City Collection
Builder: Streetcar Developments
Architect: RAW Design
Interiors: Seven Haus Design
Location: Queen Street East and Don Valley
Building: 15 storeys with 308 suites
Sizes: From 405 to 1,830 sq. ft.
Pricing: From the $200,000s to $1,000,000
Suites: Range from studios to three bedrooms
Status: Pre-construction
Occupancy: May 2018
Sales centre: Coming soon to 630 Queen St. E.
Phone: 416-466-4466
Website: riversidesquare.ca
Email: info@riversidesquare.ca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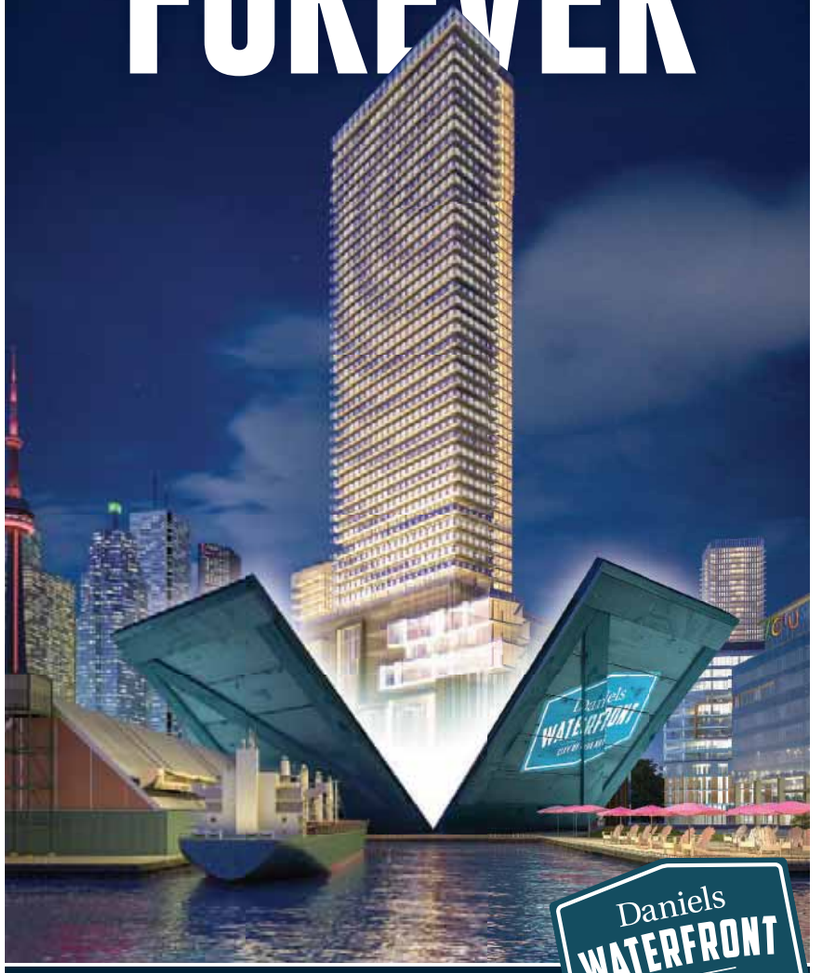

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What they're a$king

As Canadian cities grow, the only place left to build is up. Single-family homes are in great demand, and in some cities, rising prices and bidding wars are the norm. Here is an interesting cross-section of three-bedroom homes with a range of asking prices. **Duncan McAllister** FOR METRO

ASKING PRICES WERE ACCURATE AT TIME OF PUBLISHING.

$989,000

Toronto

This character row house is located deep in the heart of Little Italy, at 31 Clinton St. It was built in the 1880s and has been renovated to perfection. The home features high-end finishes, elegant fixtures and heritage crown moldings. With a bright and spacious layout, there's also a finished basement with a separate entrance and a detached garage. The site is located near all the amenities and transit options of College Street West. Listing agents Ralph Fox and Kori Marin are with Sage Real Estate Ltd., 416-483-8000.

$529,000

Ottawa

For sale is a three-bedroom bungalow in the McKellar Park neighbourhood. It has a main-floor family room addition, with hardwood in the principal rooms and bedrooms, a wood-burning fireplace and a fully finished basement with laundry. There are two bathrooms and a two-car, attached garage. The home is within walking distance to great schools and Westboro Village. Listing agent Kelly Millican is a sales representative with Royal LePage Team Realty, 613-729-9090.

$429,900

Calgary

This three-bedroom, detached home in the Mayland Heights district is close to everything — five minutes to downtown, one block to the bus or a 15-minute walk to the LRT. The home features 956 sq. ft. of living space and three bathrooms. The master suite has built-in closets in an en suite bathroom. The second storey has two bedrooms and a spacious main bath. There's a chef's kitchen with white cupboards and granite countertops. Bryon Howard is a sales representative for Re/Max House of Real Estate, 403-589-0004.

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Gourd-bye to carving pumpkins

HOME DECOR

Get style sans the smoosh in the leadup to Halloween

While some people can't wait to get out the carving knife, there are lots of alternative ways to dress up a Halloween pumpkin.

"No carving means less mess," says Katherine Parker, senior digital editor of Better Homes and Gardens magazine.

She suggests painting the pumpkin black before adding cardstock features that will appeal to youngsters. "A tail, ears or bat wings can transform a plain pumpkin into a cute, festive creature."

Other kid-friendly ideas? Swath your pumpkin in cheesecloth to create a mummy, or clad in silvery blue paint with some faux rhinestones and a tiara for a "Frozen" theme.

Parker says paint pens are an even easier way to decorate pumpkins. "Arrange different-size stencilled pumpkins to create a vignette — like a cat chasing mice, or a spooky message." For a Gothic, slightly racy look, apply a black lace stencil. An intricate doily or piece of tulle would create pretty stencilled patterns. Or simply wrap an old pair of fishnet or lace tights around the pumpkin and add a silky bow at the stem.

Go seasonally stylish, without overtly referencing Halloween, by painting your pumpkin and then embellishing it with stripes, chevrons or polka dots in fall hues. Think chocolate brown on cream; carmine on deep yellow; black on white; copper on indigo.

An all-black pumpkin decorated with tiny sequins or crystals in a celestial design creates late-night drama without the scare factor.

Get out the glue gun and add inky black gemstones, glitter or feathers, or wrap your pumpkin from stem to base in vertical strips of paper, ribbon, yarn or washi tape in a fun, fashion-forward design.

Go right outside the traditional Halloween box by painting your pumpkins in an unusual colour — think navy or smoke or olive — and consider a matte rather than glossy paint to up the style ante. Wrap stems in velvety chenille yarn or metallic thread. If you've got any extra wide-based pillar candle or cake stands at home, you're all set to elevate your creations; spray-paint them glossy black for extra punch.

Whether you're having a party or just went to send greetings of the season, mini pumpkins are a great vehicle. Wrap stems with greenery, colourful twine and a little message or invite tag for the perfect Halloween invite.

Look for instructions and templates at bhg.com, instructables.com or marthastewart.com, among other resources.

Store finds

If you aren't crafty, there are some striking jack-o'-lanterns in stores this season.

- Add shimmer and shine to your Halloween display with Pottery Barn's lacy glass-mosaic pumpkins, or ones covered with hand-blown glass dots on antiqued silver. Filled with battery-operated LED lights, they work well all season. (potterybarn.com)
- Homegoods has pumpkins made of various natural materials, such as twigs, seed pods and vines. Some are dyed in vibrant fall hues and they have interesting textures. (homegoods.com)
- Iron forged into jack-o'-lantern shapes gives Crate & Barrel's luminaries a modern vibe; use them indoors as floor or mantel decor with graphic punch. (crateandbarrel.com)
- Grandin Road's got snazzy, black-and-gold harlequin and polka-dot patterned pumpkins, as well as pre-lit grapevine pumpkins. (grandinroad.com)
- At Pier 1, there's an oddly appealing mashup of seasonal decor in a black faux pine garland festooned with glittery faux pumpkins and glass balls. (pier1.com)

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pumpkins crafted from natural materials like twigs, seed pods, vines and tree fibres make an interesting alternative to carved or traditional pumpkins. ZACK SECKLER/HOMEGOODS VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LED lights illuminate an array of mercury glass and resin pumpkins from Pottery Barn for a festive Halloween without the mess of carving. POTTERY BARN VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Karl Lohnes
For Metro Canada

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2 Grind away
One machine that grinds to every need at the perfect price. Custom Grind Coffee Grinder, $35, HamiltonBeach.ca

3 Heat away
A solid brass classic to entertain for a lifetime. Alfi Thermal Carafe, $200, Williams-Sonoma.com

4 Pump away
For the smoothest, grit-free pump coffee. AeroPress Coffee & Espresso Brewer, $35, Starbucks.ca

5 Brew away
The hipster teapot that will live on forever. STAUB Teapot, Basil, $170, TheBay.com

6 Walk away
Act like you overspend at the local coffee shop while brewing your own. Lenox Park City Thermal Travel Mug, $12, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

7 Boil away
Add some style from kitchen counter to the table. Hamilton Beach 1.7-litre Stainless Steel Cordless Kettle, $70, Lowes.ca

8 Store away
The handiest gadget in your coffee station. Coffee Scoop Clip, $6, CB2.com

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Bautista blasts Jays to AL finals

MLB PLAYOFFS

Bizarre plays, Ranger errors pave way to dramatic finish

ALDS Game 5

Capping a deciding game filled with controversy, bad blood and just plain craziness, Jose Bautista's three-run homer propelled the Blue Jays into the American League Championship Series as baseball karma delivered Toronto a wild 6-3 win over the Texas Rangers on Wednesday.

Game 5 of the AL Division Series was filled with drama — and almost as much talk as play on the field before a riled-up sellout crowd of 49,742 under the Rogers Centre roof.

When the dust settled, the Jays had rallied from a 2-0 hole to win three straight and advance to face either Kansas City or Houston. It was Toronto's first home playoff win since Joe Carter's home run secured the 1993 World Series.

The Jays rushed the mound to celebrate when it was over, followed by police to monitor the crowd. And baseball had a playoff game that will long be remembered, for the good and bad. Tied 2-2, the contest was turned on its head in the top of the seventh.

With Rougned Odor on third and Shin Soo-Choo at the plate with two outs, Toronto catcher Russell Martin's return throw back to the mound hit Choo's bat and flew off into the distance.

Odor raced home while the Jays players held their arms up in disbelief. Home plate umpire Dale Scott, who had called time, then awarded Odor the base — and the run — after a confab. As beer and garbage flew out of the stands, there was more talk and a review.

The ruling was the play stood — that Choo had not intentionally interfered so the ball was alive and in play. Martin was given a throwing error and the irate Jays, now trailing 3-2, filed their protest.

By chance, Martin was up to open the bottom of the seventh. And karma kicked in with three straight Texas errors — one by first baseman Mitch Moreland and two by shortstop Elvis Andrus — allowing Martin, Kevin Pillar and Ryan Goins to load the bases with none out.

Toronto's Roberta Osuna and catcher Dioner Navarro embrace as the Blue Jays celebrate on the field at Rogers Centre. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Rangers got pinch-runner Dalton Pompey out at home with the Rangers upset at the take-no-prisoners slide that took out catcher Chris Gimenez. Reliever Sam Dyson took over for Rangers ace Cole Hamels.

Josh Donaldson drove in Pillar on a field's choice floater that just went over Odor's glove to tied it at 3-3. Bautista then slammed a three-run homer to settle the score, pausing dramatically to savour his handiwork before flipping the bat and trotting round the bases.

Dyson took umbrage, jawing at Edwin Encarnacion, who was next up. The benches and bullpen emptied, although nothing came of it.

The benches emptied again after the inning finally ended. Jays pitcher Mark Buehrle, who was in uniform but not on the playoff roster, was the only player ejected after the scuffles. Texas put two men on in the eighth but closer Roberto Osuna ended the threat before wrapping up the ninth.

The Jays are the 15th team in MLB history to force a Game 5 in a best-of-five series when down 0-2 and only the third to win after losing the first two games at home (the Yankees in 2001 and San Francisco Giants in 2012 also did it).

The game was played nearly 30 years to the day that the Jays played their last sudden-death game (Oct 16, 1985, a loss to Kansas City).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ONLINE RISE

The Toronto Blue Jays' success on the field this season is helping them online.

Toronto's surge into Major League Baseball's post-season and performance in the American League Division Series has seen the Blue Jays' popularity explode, with the team's official Twitter account gaining more than 350,000 followers over the course of the season, putting them over one million total followers.

The Toronto Maple Leafs remain the most popular Canadian sports franchise on Twitter with 1,034,103 followers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Umpires confer on the play as Choo looks on. THE CANADIAN PRESS

GAME 5 CONTROVERSY

What the heck was that play all about?

Game 5 of the American League Division Series between the Rangers and the Blue Jays had no shortage of drama Wednesday as the benches cleared twice, fans repeatedly threw debris on the field and Toronto played under protest after a botched throw back to the mound led to a controversial go-ahead run.

After Toronto catcher Russell Martin caught a pitch with two outs in the seventh inning, he attempted to throw the ball back to pitcher Aaron Sanchez.

The ball struck the bat of Shin-Soo Choo, who was standing in the batter's box and had his arm extended and bat upright. When the ball rolled down the third-base line, Rougned Odor scampered home to give the Rangers a 3-2 lead.

Many players on the field thought the play was dead. Home-plate umpire Dale Scott conferred with his crew and decided the run would count.

> **I lost my voice. I probably lost my mind at some points.**
> Jays manager John Gibbons

The decision sent the raucous sellout Rogers Centre crowd into a frenzy, with some fans throwing garbage onto the field. Players gathered by the infield and some went into the dugout to avoid getting pelted by garbage.

The Blue Jays won the game 6-3 and advanced to the American League Championship Series but, for a short time, it appeared the odd play would be determinative of the outcome.

Toronto manager John Gibbons argued with Scott and the play was eventually reviewed. The call stood after a review of over two minutes.

"Totally insane," Gibbons said. "I lost my voice. I probably lost my mind at some points."

According to the official rules, if the batter interferes with the catcher's throw to retire a runner by stepping out of the batter's box, interference shall be called on the batter under Rule 6.03 (a) (3).

However, if the batter is standing in the batter's box and he or his bat is struck by the catcher's throw back to the pitcher (or throw in attempting to retire a runner) and, in the umpire's judgment, there is no intent on the part of the batter to interfere with the throw, the ball is alive and in play.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TFC clinches first MLS playoff berth

MLS

Wonder goal from Giovinco makes history at BMO Field

Sebastian Giovinco and Herculez Gomez scored as Toronto FC clinched its first-ever playoff berth with a 2-1 over the New York Red Bulls on Wednesday night. It was the fourth-straight win for Toronto (15-13-4), which will be heading to the post-season for the first time after joining Major League Soccer in 2006.

Giovinco brought the crowd on its feet in the 79th minute after deking out a slew of Red Bulls before firing a shot into the right hand side of the net. He celebrated the goal by using the Toronto Blue Jays stirring the pot symbol.

Giovinco, who arrived back in Toronto late Wednesday afternoon from international duty with Italy, subbed into the game in the 71st minute for Gomez. Giovinco played Tuesday against Norway in a Euro 2016 qualifier.

Shaun Wright-Phillips scored the lone goal for New York (16-10-6) in the 86th minute.

It was the 22nd goal of the season for Giovinco, who has been having an MVP-calibre season.

Gomez gave Toronto a 1-0 lead in the 51st minute after picking up a through ball from Jackson that deflected off a New York defender and beat outstretched Red Bulls goalkeeper Luis Robles.

Sebastian Givinco THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto FC players and fans celebrate qualifying for the Major League Soccer playoffs for the first time in the team's nine-year history. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It was the first goal of the season for the 33-year-old American, who was making his first start for TFC since Sept. 5 after signing with the club in early August.

Giovinco created another opportunity in the 85th minute when he used his speed to bolt down the right-hand side of the pitch and send in a cross, but Robles made a big save to keep the game at 2-0.

Toronto controlled the majority of the first half despite being outshot 5-1.

Damien Perquis had TFC's best first-half chance in the 24th minute off a free kick. Gomez's ball curled towards the goal but Perquis just missed his headed attempt, although the ball still nearly found its way past Robles.

An odd play occurred in the 34th minute when Toronto's Jozy Altidore, sitting on the bench, was given a red card for a foul and abusive language.

Reds goalkeeper Chris Konopka, with help from Perquis, came out to make a sprawling save in the 13th minute that kept the game scoreless.

Toronto moved into second place in the Eastern Conference, five points behind the Red Bulls. The top six teams in each conference make the playoffs with the top two teams on each side getting a first round bye. The third and fourth-ranked clubs open at home.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WEDNESDAY in Toronto

TFC	RED BULLS
2	1

ELSEWHERE

UEFA names top seeds for Euro 2016 playoff games

UEFA says Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hungary, Sweden and Ukraine will avoid each other in the playoffs for the European Championship as top seeds.

The teams they can be paired with in Sunday's draw are Denmark, Ireland, Norway and Slovenia. The two-legged playoffs are being played from Nov. 12 to Nov. 17. The eight nations are vying for the final four places in the expanded 24-team Euro 2016 after finishing third in their groups.

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Als acquire QB Glenn

CFL TRADE DEADLINE

Calgary adds RB Messam, while Ticats pick up Edem

The Montreal Alouettes have acquired quarterback Kevin Glenn from the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

The Riders get a fifth-round pick in the 2016 draft in return for the veteran. The deal came before Wednesday's 4 p.m. CFL trade deadline.

Montreal (5-9) lost starter Rakeem Cato to injury in Monday's 25-17 home loss to the Toronto Argonauts.

Glenn completed 171 of 257 passes for 2,174 yards with nine touchdowns and 10 interceptions this season with the Riders.

Montreal is last in the East Division, tied with both B.C. (5-9) and Winnipeg (5-10) for the third playoff spot in the West Division standings.

They would have to accumulate more points than both clubs in order to become the first Eastern squad to cross over to the West come playoff time.

In another deadline deal, the Calgary Stampeders acquired running back Jerome Messam and a 2016 fifth-round draft pick from the Saskatchewan Roughriders for kicker Tyler Crapigna, a 2016 third-round selection and a negotiations list player.

Messam, 30, of Brampton, is the CFL's second-leading rusher with 826 yards.

The Hamilton Tiger-Cats acquired Canadian defensive back Mike Edem from the Montreal Alouettes for two draft picks Wednesday.

Montreal received a 2016 sixth-round pick and a conditional seventh-round selection in 2017.

The moves came prior to the 4 p.m. ET trade deadline. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa's Cody Ceci, right, battles Columbus' Cam Atkinson. PAUL VERNON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Senators take Jackets to shed

Bobby Ryan, Mika Zibanejad and Kyle Turris each had a goal and an assist, Erik Karlsson added a career-high four assists, and the Ottawa Senators beat the struggling Columbus Blue Jackets 7-3 Wednesday.

Marc Methot, Milan Michalek, Jean-Gabriel Pageau and Mike Hoffman also scored to help Ottawa improve to 3-0-0 on the road for the first time since 2007-08. Ryan Stone had two assists and Craig Anderson made 37 saves.

Brandon Saad, Boone Jenner and Brandon Dubinsky scored for Columbus. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Capitals benched Ovie because he overslept and missed practice

Washington Capitals star Alex Ovechkin said he overslept and missed practice on Tuesday morning, and that's why coach Barry Trotz made him sit out that night's game against San Jose Sharks.

The Capitals said on Tuesday that Ovechkin missed the game due to "personal reasons." Ovechkin spoke to reporters after Wednesday's practice, saying he made a mistake setting his alarm clock.

He set the alarm clock for 8:30 p.m. instead of a.m., which caused him to oversleep and arrive at practice late. Ovechkin said Trotz then told the Capitals captain he would not play in the game for violating team rules.

"I just messed up with my alarm clock ... made a mistake," Ovechkin said. "We talked. We have a conversation. It's (the) rules."

Trotz said he understood what happened, but the rules are the rules. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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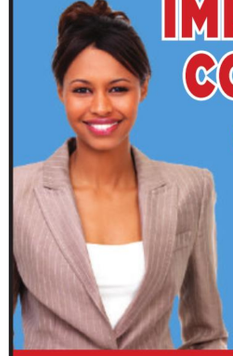
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RECIPE Sweet Potato and Apple Soup

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This sweet and spicy dish is great alone or with grilled cheese.

Ready in
Prep time: 45 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 large sweet potato, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 Tbsps olive oil, divided
- pinch salt
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 2 apples, diced
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- pinch nutmeg
- pinch ginger
- 1/2 cup coconut milk

Directions
1. Preheat oven to 400.
2. In a large bowl, toss sweet potato with 1 tablespoon of the olive oil and salt. Spread them on a greased baking sheet and roast in the oven for about 20 minutes until tender.
3. In a large pot over medium heat, add the remaining olive oil, garlic, carrot and onion. Cook, stirring frequently, until vegetables are tender, about 10 minutes. Stir in the chicken stock and add sweet potato, apple and spices and cover allowing the soup to simmer for about 15 minutes.
4. Remove the soup from the heat and using an immersion blender or working in batches with a blender, puree the soup until smooth. You can add additional stock if you want to adjust the consistency of the soup.
5. Return the soup to low heat and stir in the milk and allow to simmer another 5 minutes then season to taste.

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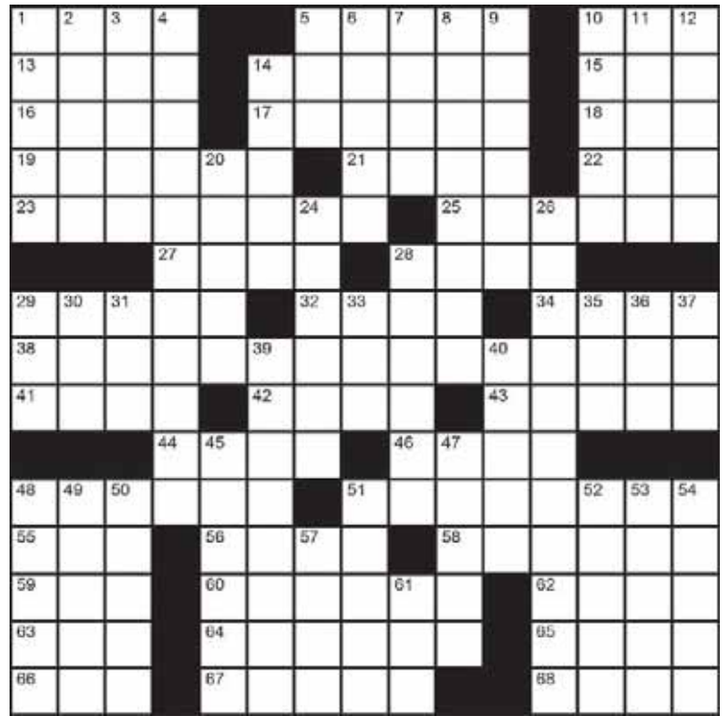
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Be an appreciative audience
5. Royalty retinue
10. Gang
13. Standards songwriter Mr. Porter
14. Type of hairpiece
15. Adam's _ (Water, colloquially)
16. Eddie Cochran rock 'n' roll song: "_ Everybody"
17. Irish actor Peter or American golfer Mark
18. Former mil. General's abbreviation
19. Introduce, as a new fashion collection
21. Proofreader's 'leave in'
22. Point
23. Roundabout
25. Hollywood a-lister Tom
27. Not, olde-style
28. Shortly
29. Straighten
32. Exit user
34. Judi Dench's title
38. British Columbia's tree emblem: 3 wds.
41. Celeb's ride
42. John or William of movies
43. Sequence
44. Variantly-spelled refusals
46. Beyonce song
48. "_ Really Matter" by Platinum Blonde
51. _ Gardens (Calgary botanical attraction)
55. Same old, same old
56. 'Single'-meaning prefix
58. _ & Davide (Makers of The Queen's shoes)
59. Ordinal suffix
60. Ascended
62. Poivres pals
63. "Cold Mountain" (2003) role for Nicole
64. Most ready-to-be-eaten banana
65. "Mother-in-Law" by Ernie _-_
66. Work week starter, briefly
67. Daunt
68. Longbow woods

DOWN
1. Nero's 351
2. "Death of a Salesman" (1951) character Willy
3. For everyone to hear
4. Canadian plus-size clothing chain
5. Web address' usual last word
6. Est's opposite
French direction
7. _ _ the crack of dawn
8. Do a new version of the song
9. Theatre, in Italy
10. Tuesday: French
11. Margarines
12. Hollywood legend Ms. Davis
14. "Listen _ _ Heart" by Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers
20. Dr. Frasier _ (Kelsey Grammer character)
24. The Swan constellation
26. Current album by Canadian quartet The Tenors: 3 wds.
28. Boil under the collar
29. Hole-punching tool
30. Greeter's garland for the guest
31. 'Real' suffix
33. Bruins legend Bobby
35. Don't subtract, do this instead
36. Ms. West
37. Be off
39. Lofty language
40. Eyes-creator in a smiley face :)
45. Where liquid water has been detected, in recent space headlines: 2 wds.
47. Before: French
48. Aspiration
49. Do better this time
50. Mr. Hawke
51. Medication-dispensing person, say
52. L'_ _ Montreal
53. Grant
54. Sniffers
57. Palm used for basketry or thatching
61. WNW opposite

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
How can you be sure that someone is telling you the truth? You can't, but it doesn't matter. Even if they are lying no harm will come of it.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If someone you live or work with makes a mess of something today don't make a big fuss about it. There are far too many interesting things going on to waste time worrying what others may be doing wrong.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Focus on career and work-related matters today. If you knuckle down and get things done you will make the kind of impression that earns big rewards. Employers are eager to see you succeed — don't let them down.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Listen to what friends and colleagues tell you today because they can see the bigger picture while you can only see small bits of it.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Consider your options carefully, then act quickly and decisively. This applies especially to financial matters. Somehow you will just know what your rivals are planning. Use that knowledge to your benefit.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The more you seek advice from people you trust the more their ideas and opinions will confuse you. You don't need advice, you just need to listen to your inner voice and act on what it tells you. Trust yourself.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You already know the answers, so why are you still seeking other people's opinions? It is part of the Libra nature to look at all possibilities before making a decision but sometimes you can take it too far!

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You seem to know everyone's little secrets. You also seem to know who is telling you the truth and who is lying. It's an amazing talent and one you could and should do more with.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will be offered something worth having but will be reluctant to accept because you are not sure if it is the right thing to do. The only thing that really matters is if it benefits you.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You can get just about anyone to agree to just about anything. Whether you use your powers of persuasion for good or bad remains to be seen but use it you must.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may not change the way you do things often but once you do you go all the way and that's what will happen today. You will be amazed how quickly it becomes a part of your life.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You see trouble developing well before anyone else, which gives you a major advantage. Your way with words is also a handy weapon and anyone who challenges you today will wish they had kept quiet!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	5		6		8		2	
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1					3			4
4		9						1
	3						5	
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8			4					9
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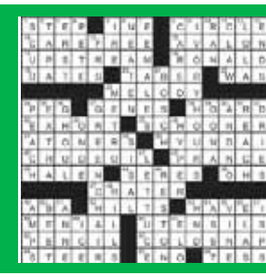

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7	6	1	8	3	2	4	9	5
9	4	2	5	6	1	7	3	8
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3	8	6	2	1	4	9	5	7
1	5	9	6	7	3	2	8	4

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